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ABSTRACT

This publication presents the New Jersey State plan for the education of children of homeless families under the guidelines of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1987. An introduction reviews current demographics of the homeless population, particularly children and youth, and highlights planned state responses. A second section covers methods and criteria for needs assessment through a study of the number, location, and educational needs of homeless children and youth. A third section presents 12 objectives in the state's plan for responding to homeless children's educational barriers. The next section outlines the state's plan of operation, including management, service delivery methods, and evaluation. A final section lists the findings of public testimony on the plan. Included are extensive appendices containing the text of the McKinney Act, a revision of state residency requirements, statewide regulations for provisions of the education of homeless children and youth, county liaisons, a Department of Human Services/Department of Education agreement, a parents pamphlet, information on a New Jersey advisory council, the survey instrument used, and a commissioner's memorandum to chief school administrators. Contains 21 references. (JB)

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THE EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN NEW JERSEY:

A PLAN FOR STATE ACTION

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THE EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN NEW JERSEY:

A PLAN FOR STATE ACTION

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"The New Jersey Department of Education has taken and will continue to take an aggressive approach in meeting the unique, pressing and emerging needs of homeless children. All of our state's children regardless of circumstances, deserve access to a free and appropriate public education of the highest quality."

John Ellis, Commissioner of Education

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Changing Face of Homelessness

Most people in the United States today are aware that homelessness is one of our nation's most critical problems. They are less aware, however, that the nature of this problem has changed markedly over the past decade. What was for many years a population consisting largely of white, male, unemployed single adults now includes many families, unaccompanied youths and men and women forced into separation from their families in order to receive temporary shelter. This population also includes many elderly, disabled, and ethnic and racial minorities. An increasing number of homeless are fully or partially employed.

Homeless Children and Youth

Single male adults, while still the most visible of the homeless population, represent only about five percent of the total. Sixty percent of the homeless are families with children, and most of these children are of elementary school age.

Annual estimates of the number of homeless children in America range from 310,000 to 1.6 million. The U.S. Department of Education estimated that in 1989, 273,000 school-age children were homeless at some time during the year and that 28 percent of these children did not attend school during the time they were homeless.

Whether from lack of access or restriction of access, the failure of a child to attend school is one of many direct consequences of the parents' homelessness. Those children and youth who do succeed in enrolling in school face other obstacles, manifested in high dropout rates, erratic attendance, and poor academic performance.

The plight of New Jersey's homeless mirrors the nation's. Among the most heavily populated of all states, New Jersey ranks fifth in the number of homeless children and youth. Most of New Jersey's homeless children and youth are housed in welfare hotels, congregate shelters and transitional housing for families. Homeless children and youth are also living in:

- institutions that provide a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or
- a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, such as cars.

Additionally, New Jersey children and youth are considered homeless if they:

- live with a parent in a domestic violence shelter;
- live in a shelter after running away from home;
- live in a home for adolescent mothers;
- live in a hospital because they are sick or abandoned and would otherwise be released if they had permanent residences;

- live with relatives or friends out of necessity; or
- live with their migrant families who lack adequate housing.

State and local agencies have taken significant measures to ensure that homeless children enroll in school, attend school regularly, receive the range of services they require and succeed in school. These strides were made possible by the passage in 1987 of the federal Stewart B. McKinney Act and the amendments to the act in 1990. Following is a description of the major features of this landmark piece of legislation.

The Stewart B. McKinney Act

The Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (P.L. 100-77) was signed into law on July 22, 1987, and reauthorized, with amendments, on November 29, 1990 (Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1990 P.L. 101-645). Subtitle A, Section 612 of the amended, reauthorized act deals with education for homeless children and youth (Appendix A).

The original legislation provided states with the direction and resources to assure that each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth have the same access to a free and appropriate public education that would be provided for any other state resident, consistent with state laws governing school attendance. States with compulsory attendance laws that include residency requirements must review and "take steps to revise" such laws to ensure educational access for homeless children and youth.

Grants awarded to state educational agencies under the act were used to: 1) review and revise residency laws; 2) establish a state-level office to coordinate the education for homeless children and youth; 3) develop and carry out a state plan which ensures access to education for homeless children and youth; and 4) gather data on the number, location and educational needs of these children.

The enactment of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1990 substantially changed the original law. The McKinney Act of 1990 requires state departments of education to look beyond residency issues and focus on the educational barriers that may exist for homeless children and youth. The law specifies that "homelessness alone should not be sufficient reason to separate students from the mainstream school environment." Responsibilities for educating homeless children and youth now include:

- reviewing and undertaking steps to eliminate laws, regulations, practices or policies that act as barriers;
- providing activities for and services to homeless children and youth to enable them to enroll in, attend and achieve success in school;
- gathering data on the number, location and educational needs of homeless children every two years;
- developing, revising and carrying out state plan activities;

- facilitating coordination among various agencies providing services to the homeless;
- developing relationships and coordinating with other relevant programs and providers;
- developing and implementing programs for school personnel to heighten awareness of problems of homeless children and youth;
- awarding grants to school districts for direct educational and supportive services for homeless children; and
- submitting reports to the U.S. Department of Education, as required.

Office of Education for Homeless Children and Youth

The Office of Education for Homeless Children and Youth operates within the Division of Educational Programs and Student Services of the New Jersey State Department of Education. The mission of the office is to ensure that each homeless child and youth has the same access to a free and appropriate public education that is provided to any other state resident. The office has a coordinator and one full-time staff member. Since its inception in 1988, the office has been instrumental in fulfilling several major mandates. Following is a summary of the major activities of the office.

Review of Residency

As directed by the Stewart B. McKinney Act, residency requirements were reviewed. New Jersey's residency requirements entitle every student to a free, public education in the school district where he or she is domiciled [N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 (a)]. The law also stipulates that those students whose parents or guardians are temporary residents, even though not domiciled within the district, are entitled to attend public schools in the temporary district of residence [N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 (d)].

While it was clear that state residency requirements did not deny homeless children and youth access to public schools, it was also evident from a review of the requirements that they did not address the issue of homelessness directly, nor did they address the McKinney Act provision that permits homeless students to attend school in either the district of residence or the district where they are temporarily living. Revisions to the residency requirements were drafted by Department of Education staff and presented as a proposal for amendments to Senate Bill Number 2352. These amendments defined "homeless" persons as individuals who temporarily lack a fixed, regular and adequate residence and set forth specific procedures for determining the district of residence and appropriate educational placement for homeless children and youth. The amendments were signed into law in January 1990 and became effective on July 1, 1990 (Appendix B).

The amendments designate the district of residence as responsible for the educational placement decision after consultation with the parent or guardian. This determination shall be either to:

- continue the student's education in the school district of last attendance;
- enroll the student in the district of residence if the district of residence is not the district of last attendance; or
- enroll the student in the school district where the student is temporarily living --

whichever is in the student's best interest.

The amendments also clarify the responsibilities of the district of residence for paying tuition and transportation for homeless students and delineate the method by which placement decisions can be appealed. On November 7, 1990, the New Jersey State Board of Education adopted rules and regulations to implement the new revised residency requirements for homeless students (N.J.A.C. 6:3-7). The rules were established to assist school districts in determining placement of homeless students and to respond to appeals made by parents or other parties (Appendix C).

Coordination

The Office of Education for Homeless Children and Youth established ongoing working relationships with the department's Division of Adult Education; the Department of Human Services; the inter-faith network; advocacy groups; and others responsible for, working with, and concerned about the homeless. The office also developed a State Advisory Council on the Education of Homeless Children and Youth and an intrastate response network, which identifies a homeless education contact person in each county office of education (Appendix D), and a district liaison in each school district. These contact persons are responsible for facilitating all the activities needed to ensure the timely educational placement of homeless children and Youth. A statewide directory of district liaisons is available through the Office of Education for Homeless Children and Youth.

An interagency agreement was also formalized between the Department of Education and the Department of Human Services on August 1, 1990. Its purpose was to facilitate delivery of educational services by supplying to school districts information to ensure that homeless children are enrolled in school (Appendix E).

Technical Assistance

The office has provided technical assistance and workshops on meeting the needs of homeless children and implementing the homeless law. These sessions have been presented to school districts, county welfare agencies, social service agencies, professional and community organizations, and advocacy groups.

Since its establishment in February 1988, the office has helped to resolve approximately 400 cases involving educational services to homeless students. The office has also developed a parents pamphlet detailing the educational rights of homeless children in New Jersey, which is also available in Spanish (Appendix F).

Pilot Projects

The office distributed grant funds to support pilot projects in the school districts of East Orange and Newark. These projects focus on providing comprehensive educational services to homeless students and will identify successful strategies which can be replicated throughout the state.

Advisory Council

An advisory council, consisting of homeless parents and representatives from shelters, advocacy groups and school districts, was established in February 1990. Its purpose was and continues to be to advise the Commissioner of Education on policies and practices having to do with the education of homeless children and youth. The council meets five times each school year and has developed a mission statement and goals. (Appendix G).

Needs Assessments

Needs assessments were conducted by means of two major surveys, which were the first to identify the number, location and educational needs of homeless children in New Jersey.

The first data collection was conducted by the New Jersey State Department of Human Services. The study gathered data from a one-year period, November 1986 through November 1987. The Department of Education conducted a one-day survey on November 18, 1988. Data were collected for a second time by the Department of Education in the fall of 1989. (Section II)

The following chart summarizes the activities of the Office of Education for Homeless Children and Youth from October 1989 through September 1991.

NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: OCTOBER 1989-JUNE 1991

	What	When
1.	Needs assessment conducted	November 15 - December 15, 1989
2.	Law passed amending residency requirements	January 1990
3.	Advisory Council established	February 1990
4.	County and district liaisons named throughout the state	June 1990
5.	Agreement between Department of Education and Department of Human Services formalized	August 1990
6.	Pamphlet for parents produced and distributed	August 1990
7.	Training on implementation of law conducted statewide	September and October 1990
8.	Requests for proposals mailed to pilot projects	September 1990
9.	Administrative code adopted	November 1990
10.	Pilots operational	February 1991 - September 1991

II. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The New Jersey State Department of Education, working with data provided by the New Jersey State Department of Human Services, conducted a study in the fall of 1989 to update its information regarding the number, location and educational needs of homeless children and youth in the state. Following is a description of the study.

Purpose

The purpose of the study was threefold: 1) to determine the number and location of homeless children and youth in New Jersey from September 1, 1988 through August 31, 1989; 2) to further identify and verify obstacles to the provision of educational services to this population; and 3) to identify educational needs more specifically.

Data Collection

Data were gathered using two methods:

1. administration of a survey designed by the Office of Education for Homeless Children and Youth to obtain information on children and youth not receiving emergency assistance; and

2. calculation of projections, using Department of Human Services data regarding families and children receiving emergency assistance.

I. The Survey Instrument

A questionnaire was designed to collect information on the number of homeless children who were receiving services apart from the public welfare Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) emergency assistance system (Appendix H). The questionnaire was divided into the following sections:

- the current number of homeless children and youth by age level;
- the source of the respondent's information;
- the numbers of school-age homeless children who were attending or not attending school;
- the type of facility where homeless children were currently residing;
- the educational obstacles faced by homeless children and youth;
- the major educational needs of this population; and
- additional comments regarding problems encountered in identifying and meeting the educational needs of homeless children and youth.

Administration of the Survey

In conducting the survey, the Department of Education targeted shelters and social service agencies providing services to families not on emergency assistance. This population, a segment of the homeless working poor, would not be reflected in the data obtained from the Department of Human Services, since they would not be eligible for assistance. The questionnaire was mailed on November 15, 1989, to family shelters, domestic violence shelters, runaway youth shelters and interfaith networks providing services to this group.

Of 73 eligible agencies throughout the state, 36 returned completed questionnaires by December 1, 1989, representing a 49 percent response rate. Follow-up of non-respondents revealed one or more of the following reasons for their lack of participation:

- lack of staff or resources to obtain yearly figures for the targeted group;
- inability of agencies to separate the two populations (AFDC emergency and non-AFDC emergency); and
- unavailability of age or grade level data.

II. The Projections

A five-county sample of families and children receiving emergency assistance (AFDC/EA) funds was drawn from the records of the Department of Human Services. The following describes the procedure used to arrive at statewide projections of numbers of homeless children and youth.

Calculation of Projections

- The total number of homeless children and youth for the sample five counties was determined by school level.
- The total public school enrollment for the sample counties was obtained from the New Jersey State Department of Education's Vital Education Statistics, 1988-89.
- The total number of homeless children in the sample counties was divided by the total school enrollment to estimate the proportion of public school children who are homeless in the sample counties (by school level).
- The proportions obtained for the sample counties were used to estimate the number of homeless children in the remaining 16 counties in New Jersey (based on the total school enrollment in each of the counties).
- The actual number of homeless children in the five-county sample was added to the estimated number in the other 16 counties to arrive at a statewide projection.

- In calculating statewide projections it was assumed that the proportion of homeless students in the elementary, middle/junior high school and high school levels in the five-county sample is representative of the statewide proportion of students in those three levels.

Survey Results: Numbers Served

Table 1 summarizes the numbers of homeless children and youth served during the survey period and not receiving emergency assistance (AFDC/EA). The data are shown by school level and age group.

Table 1
Numbers of Homeless Children/Youth Served, by School/Age Groups
September 1, 1988 - August 31, 1989
N=36

School Level	Ages	Total
Preschool	3-4	1,065
Elementary (K-6)	5-11	1,485
Middle/Jr. High (7-9)	12-14	863
High School (10-12)	15-18	806
	Total	4,219

The largest number of homeless children was found in K-6 age group. Of the 36 responses received, 23 reported using records to obtain this information; 5 reported estimates; and the remaining eight did not indicate a source. Respondents reported that of the 3,154 children in grades K-12, 2,649 were currently attending school and 505 were not attending.

Table 2 shows the type of housing which served homeless children and youth who were not receiving emergency assistance (AFDC/EA).

Table 2
Non AFDC/EA Homeless Children/Youth Served by Type of Housing
N = 36

Type of Housing	Total
Motels/Hotels	1689
Both Shelters and Motels	N/A
Privately and Publicly Operated Shelters	2134
Relatives or Friends	274
Church Placements	51

As the table shows, most of these children were sheltered in privately and publicly operated shelters.

Projection Results

Table 3 summarizes results of projections derived from the five-county sample. These figures represent only those children and youth receiving emergency assistance (AFDC/EA). The data are shown by school level and age group.

Table 3
Numbers of AFDC/EA Homeless Children/Youth Served September 1, 1988 - August 31, 1989 by School/Age Groups
N=36

School Level	Ages	Total
Preschool	3-4	1,653
Elementary (K-6)	5-11	5,610
Middle/Jr. High (7-9)	12-14	1,580
High School (10-12)	15-18	1,377
	Total	10,220

Table 3 shows further that these homeless children are also concentrated in the K-6 age group. The pre-school data represent actual counts only. No estimates of numbers in the other sixteen counties have been added, since the New Jersey Department of Education data do not include pre-school enrollments.

Table 4 shows the type of housing which served homeless children and youth who have received emergency assistance (AFDC/EA).

Table 4
AFDC/EA Homeless Children/Youth Served by Type of Housing

Type of Housing	Total
Motels/Hotels	6511
Both Shelters and Motels	86
Privately and Publicly Operated Shelters	1970
Relatives or Friends	0
Church Placements	N/A

As can be seen in Table 4, the vast majority of these children were sheltered in motels. Children sheltered in both shelters and motels received both types of housing during the duration of their homelessness. Relatives or friends are not offered as a type of housing to emergency assistance recipients. This accounts for zero in that column.

Table 5 shows the numbers of children and youth receiving emergency assistance (AFDC/EA) obtained from the Department of Human Services for the five sample counties and the projected figures for the 16 remaining counties in New Jersey. These figures do not reflect the numbers received from the survey conducted by the Department of Education. As can be seen, Essex County has the greatest number of homeless students in the state.

Table 5
Numbers of AFDC/EA Homeless Children and Youth by County
N = 2,428

Homeless Children and Youth in Five-county Sample:

Atlantic	339
Cumberland	408
Essex	954
Hudson	493
Passaic	234

Projected Numbers of AFDC/EA Homeless Children and Youth Based on Five-county Sample:

Bergen	772
Burlington	471
Camden	620
Cape May	104
Gloucester	291
Hunterdon	132
Mercer	346
Middlesex	650
Monmouth	650
Morris	484
Ocean	486
Salem	93
Somerset	240
Sussex	185
Union	497
Warren	118
Total:	6,139

Results: Obstacles to the Provision of Educational Services

Based on the information reported in the statewide survey and office involvement on a case-by-case basis, the following are the major obstacles faced by homeless children and youth in obtaining access to educational services:

- Lack of Transportation: Throughout the state this has been a major issue. This is particularly critical when motels are located near busy highways or if families request that their children be sent across school boundaries to the original district of residence.

- Residency Requirements: These requirements posed a problem when families were temporarily housed in school districts outside of their original municipality. Residency requirements have since been revised to meet the unique circumstances of homeless students by providing them the option of returning to the school district they attended prior to becoming homeless (see Section 1).

- Lack of follow-up and coordination between school districts and social service agencies: At the time of the survey no formal procedures were in place to ensure that homeless children had enrolled in and were attending school.

- School Records: The immediate enrollment of homeless students in school is often delayed because health and school records from the previous school have not yet been obtained.

Results: Educational Needs

Respondents identified the need for services such as special, compensatory and bilingual/English as a Second Language (ESL) education as the most pressing educational need of the children and youth they served. They also indicated a need for counseling, after-school activities and alternative educational programs.

Also described by respondents were the difficulties they faced in identifying educational needs. These included:

- Frequent relocation of families and the transitory nature of homelessness, causing families to move from district to district;

- Priority given to survival needs (permanent housing, food, clothing, and good medical care), causing educational needs to recede in importance;

- Difficulty in formal assessment and documentation of educational needs because of frequent moves from district to district; and

- Delays in transfer of school records between districts.

Conclusions

The Population

Data from the two sources, as well as information gathered by the Department of Education on a case-by-case basis, indicated that the number of children and youth ages 0-18 served for the one-year period, September 1, 1988 to August 31, 1989, was 14,439. This seems to correspond to the estimate of between 10,000 and 15,000 homeless youngsters served over a one-year period derived from the previous needs assessment described in the first state plan. It does not, however, reflect accurately the total number of children and youth who were homeless in that time period. The reasons for this are:

- Absence of projected pre-school emergency assistance (AFDC/EA) numbers for 16 of 21 counties;
- Inability to count hidden homeless, who may be doubled up with friends or relatives, living in campgrounds, makeshift shelters, cars, etc.; and
- Difficulty reported by many surveyed agencies in providing the necessary information, yielding a 49 percent response rate.

Obstacles

The obstacles faced by homeless children and youth in obtaining access to educational services for the one-year period 1988-1989 continued to be the same as those reported in the previous needs assessment. Transportation, residency requirements, lack of follow-up, and delays in transmission of academic and medical records emerged as the major obstacles faced by homeless children and youth. The first state plan outlined 12 objectives by which to overcome these obstacles. The following chapter details the progress made since 1989 and provides an update to include:

- status of 1989 state plan objectives;
- educational obstacles faced by New Jersey's homeless children; and
- objectives, activities and timelines for 1991-1993.

III. THE STATE'S ROLE IN THE DELIVERY OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- **Status of 1989 State Plan Objectives**

The comprehensive state plan developed in 1989 included 12 objectives, each of which responded to one or more of the obstacles encountered by homeless students seeking educational access. The following details the progress made toward fulfilling each of those objectives.

OBJECTIVE 1: To ensure that all homeless children and youth have access to a free and appropriate public education.

- Communication sent to all school districts by the Commissioner of Education alerting districts of their responsibility for ensuring that all homeless students are enrolled and attending school, (Appendix I).

- Developed a statewide response network by identifying a county and a school district liaison for the Office of Education for Homeless Children and Youth, (Appendix D). These liaisons are responsible for facilitating activities needed to ensure the timely educational placement of homeless children and youth on both a county and local level. Presently there are 21 county liaisons and 587 school district liaisons. A copy of the statewide directory of school district liaisons is available through the Office of Education for Homeless Children and Youth.

- Established an agreement between the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education which formalizes a procedure for notifying a school district when homeless students are housed temporarily in their district. The form generated as a result of the agreement (Appendix E) gives school districts specific student information to ensure that all homeless students are enrolled in school.

- Developed and disseminated a pamphlet for parents which outlines the educational rights of homeless children in New Jersey, (Appendix G). This pamphlet is currently being distributed to homeless parents through county welfare agencies, family shelters and other social service agencies. The pamphlet is also available in Spanish.

OBJECTIVE 2: To revise current residency requirements to better address the needs of homeless students.

- Revised New Jersey's residency requirements to better address the specific needs of homeless students. The law, which became effective July 1, 1990 (Appendix B):

  - assigns responsibility for the education of a homeless child to the district of residence, defined as that district where the parent or guardian last resided prior to becoming homeless;

- directs the district of residence to determine the educational placement of the homeless child after consultation with the parent or guardian based on the best interest of the child;

- allows three educational placement options for a homeless child: a) to continue the child's education in the school district of last attendance, b) to enroll the child in the district of residence if the district of residence is not the district of last attendance; or c) to enroll the child in the school district where the child is temporarily living;

- establishes an appeal process which requires the county superintendent of schools to resolve disputed placement decisions within 48 hours;

- fixes the responsibility of paying tuition and transportation expenses with the district of residence; and

- directs the Department of Education to assume financial responsibility for tuition if no district of residence can be determined.

- Developed regulations to assist school districts in meeting their responsibilities under the law. The purpose of these regulations is to establish statewide policies and procedures for ensuring that homeless children and youth have access to a free and appropriate public education. Specific rules clarify the determination of homelessness and define the responsibilities of the district of residence, establish criteria for educational placement decisions, and outline an appeals process when these decisions are disputed by parents or other parties (Appendix C).

- Provided statewide training sessions for county and district liaisons to ensure compliance with new state laws on the provisions for the education of homeless children and youth, N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-12.

OBJECTIVE 3: To ensure that homeless student school placement decisions are made in the best interest of the students.

- The following requirements have been included in the state regulations which implement the revised residency law for homeless students:

  - The district of residence must make each school placement decision in the best interest of the student, using the following criteria:

    - preference of the parent(s) or guardian(s) as to where the child should attend school;

    - continuity of the child's educational program with consideration given to the child continuing in the same school, the length of time the child attended a

particular school, the time remaining in the school year, graduation requirements and district policies regarding the number of credits needed for graduation and geographical location where the family plans to seek permanent housing;

- eligibility for special instructional programs such as compensatory, bilingual, gifted/talented and special education programs; and

- distance, travel time and safety factors in coordinating transportation services from the temporary residence to the school.

- The district of residence must make the placement decision within three days after notification of the need for placement of a homeless student.

- School districts must have written documentation of consultation with parents, guardian or caseworkers in making placement decisions.

- The regulations also established an appeal process on the county and state levels to ensure that placement decisions are made in the best interest of students (Appendix C).

- School districts must be monitored to ensure that homeless student placement decisions are made in accordance with specified regulations.

OBJECTIVE 4: To provide technical assistance to school districts in developing and implementing transportation systems which meet the needs of homeless students.

- Developed regulations for school districts which clearly define who is responsible for transporting students and describe options for providing transportation and criteria to be considered in arranging transportation, e.g. travel time, distance, safety considerations.

- Provided technical assistance on a county and local level to ensure that school districts were meeting the transportation needs of homeless students. This is an ongoing activity.

- Coordinated transportation activities with other state departments to develop countywide transportation systems.

OBJECTIVE 5: To assist districts in developing and implementing alternative registration and transfer policies which ensure that school and health records of homeless students are available for immediate entrance to school.

- Communicated to districts that delays in the receipt of school or medical records must not preclude timely registration and immediate entrance of homeless students to school.

- Developed and distributed a pamphlet for parents which details the educational rights of homeless children.

- Facilitated the coordination of educational services between school districts and social service providers.

- Developed and disseminated state regulations which outline criteria to ensure that homeless students have immediate access to school.

OBJECTIVE 6: To ensure that all homeless students receive educational services comparable to services offered to other students, including educational programs such as compensatory, bilingual and special education.

- Coordinated services to ensure that homeless students requiring compensatory, bilingual and special education services are enrolled in programs and receiving services.

- Amended Office of Education for Homeless Children and Youth survey form to include information about the educational services provided to homeless students.

- Conducted a survey to identify the number, location and educational needs of homeless children and youth. A description of this survey is included in Section II.

OBJECTIVE 7: To provide technical assistance to school districts, social service providers and parents in meeting the unique educational needs of homeless children and youth.

- Provided technical assistance to over 500 districts, through district liaisons. Sessions focused on major mandates of the law, how to implement regulations, and how school districts can develop programs to meet the unique circumstances of homeless students.

- Conducted training sessions for county welfare agencies, shelters and social service agencies on the educational rights of homeless children. Sessions focused on establishing relationships with local schools to ensure that homeless children are receiving educational services.

OBJECTIVE 8: To facilitate the establishment of linkages between social service agencies, school districts, advocacy groups and other state agencies in order to meet the needs of homeless children more effectively.

- Developed linkages with the New Jersey State Department of Human Services, shelters, advocacy groups, interfaith networks and county welfare agencies to ensure that all homeless students are receiving educational services. Activities include:

  - facilitating on the county level formal systems for identifying where children are placed temporarily by county welfare agencies so that school districts can provide educational services;

- developing on the state level an agreement between the Department of Human services and the Department of Education which establishes a procedure whereby the Department of Education and school districts are provided with sufficient student information to ensure that all homeless students are in school; and

- assisting school districts with large numbers of homeless children in providing comprehensive services by coordinating activities with local resources.

- Arranged for the participation of county office of education liaisons on local Comprehensive Emergency Assistance System (CEAS) committees.

- Established and coordinated the activities of the New Jersey Advisory Council on the Education of Homeless Children and Youth. The council continues to advise the Commissioner of Education on policies and practices to ensure that homeless school-age children have the same access to elementary and secondary education as all other students in New Jersey. There are 18 participants, including homeless parents as well as representatives from public and private agencies, shelters, advocacy groups and school districts.

OBJECTIVE 9: To identify, recognize, and disseminate information on exemplary educational programs and practices for homeless children and youth.

- Established two pilot projects to provide comprehensive educational services to homeless students. The primary purpose of these projects is to identify successful strategies which can be replicated throughout the state. The school districts of Newark and East Orange are currently operating pilot projects (February 1991 to September, 1991). Projects focus on:

  - Ensuring that homeless students are enrolled in and attending school and providing supportive services in the areas of after-school tutoring, recreation, counseling, nutrition, and identification of health needs (East Orange).

  - Increasing student enrollment and attendance for the homeless student population in grades K-8. A large motel population is the target for this program. Program staff work to alleviate obstacles to enrollment and attendance. Their responsibilities include visiting area motels and shelters; counseling students with truancy problems; taking legal action when appropriate; acting as liaisons between the schools and parents, as well as shelter owners and parents; picking up and retrieving health and academic records from various schools; and acting as advocates for the homeless (Newark).

OBJECTIVE 10: To monitor educational and other related services provided to homeless children and youth.

- Targeted site visits focusing on strategies used by school districts in implementing the following components of the homeless law:

  - parent consultation;
  - choice of educational placement;
  - record transfer and enrollment procedures;
  - timelines for enrollment;
  - identification of homeless students;
  - use of the Educational Services Emergency Referral form;
  - tuition and transportation policies; and
  - procedures for inter-district communication.

OBJECTIVE 11: To increase public awareness of and sensitivity to the issues surrounding homelessness and its effects on children and youth.

- Conducted training sessions and workshops on the needs of homeless children in order to:

  - Sensitize teachers and administrators to the needs of homeless students and offer recommendations in meeting their needs.

  - Sensitize social service providers to the educational needs unique to homeless students and the importance of ongoing communication with the schools.

  Programs have been conducted for:
  - school districts;
  - county office of education contacts;
  - county welfare agencies;
  - advocacy groups;
  - social service agencies dealing with the homeless; and
  - homeless parents.

- Served as information clearinghouse for school districts, social service providers, advocates and the community at large.

OBJECTIVE 12: To assist districts in developing programs of supplementary supportive services, including health, nutrition, recreation and social services for homeless students.

- Assisted school districts in developing programs which address the educational, physical, social and psychological needs of homeless students.

- Assisted school districts in coordinating services with local resources to meet the comprehensive needs of these children.

- Established school district programs which offer supplementary supportive services to homeless children, including:

- tutoring;
- counseling services;
- enrichment activities;
- recreation activities;
- summer programs;
- nutritional support;
- health and hygiene counseling; and
- parental involvement.

EDUCATIONAL OBSTACLES FACED BY NEW JERSEY'S HOMELESS STUDENTS

The needs assessment conducted by the New Jersey State Department of Education (NJDOE), along with the enhanced coordination developed among the department and other state agencies, school districts, social service providers, advocacy groups and homeless parents, have served to provide the Office of Education for Homeless Children and Youth with a better understanding of the obstacles which continue to restrict access to a free and appropriate public education for homeless children and youth in New Jersey.

The following section summarizes obstacles identified as major and continuing problem areas for New Jersey's homeless students.

1. **Transportation**

   - Unavailability of district transportation in many urban school districts;
   - Limited abilities of families to provide transportation;
   - Location of motels and hotels on busy highways and other roadways; and
   - Lack of a fixed location at which to pick up students whose location may change from week to week.

2. **School and Health Records**

   - Lack of timely enrollment due to variations in school district policies regarding school and health records;
   - Denial of registration due to lack of school and health records from a previous school district;
   - Guardianship prerequisites for school registration; and
   - Incomplete records sent by the previous school district.

3. **Educational Services**

   - Lack of accurate data on the number, location and educational needs of this population;
   - Inappropriate placement because of delayed or incomplete records;
   - Exacerbation of learning problems and increase in educational needs due to the condition of homelessness;
   - High mobility, leading to discontinuity of educational services;

- Difficulty in completing special education evaluation requirements due to mobility.

- Lack of continuity in programs such as special education, compensatory and bilingual/ESL education due to mobility; and

- Exclusion of many homeless children of pre-school age from participation in early intervention or preschool programs.

4. **Coordination**

- Lack of coordination among social service providers and educational agencies on state, county and local level;

- Inadequate outreach and follow-up procedures;

- Absence of uniform interstate records transfer policies; and

- Lack of coordination among school districts.

5. **Establishment of Exemplary Programs**

- Lack of processes by which exemplary programs can be identified, evaluated and replicated by other school districts; and

- Lack of state and federal funding to support exemplary projects.

6. **Identification of Homeless Students**

- Lack of awareness by school personnel that homeless children and youth can be found living in various circumstances, such as doubled up with friends or relatives;

- Lack of information by homeless parents about the choice of school district and other rights available to their children.

- Lack of awareness that homelessness is not always correlated with socioeconomic status.

7. **State Monitoring**

- Lack of criteria related specifically to educational services for homeless students in current NJDOE monitoring instruments and procedures;

- Lack of formal guidelines for monitoring educational services to homeless children and youth; and

- Lack of corrective action procedures for districts not in compliance with state and federal mandates.

8. **Public Awareness**

- Lack of information about rights, needs, enrollment procedures, transportation, and access to other social services;
- Lack of awareness of the embarrassment, shame and social stigma that often results from the condition of homelessness;
- Lack of information, resulting in the persistence of stereotypes based on outmoded images of homelessness; and
- Lack of opportunities to sensitize service providers, parents, teachers and students concerning the problems resulting from homelessness.

9. **Supplementary, Supportive Services**

- Lack of comprehensive educational programs which include:
  - adequate health and nutrition services;
  - space, equipment and materials for homework;
  - counseling services;
  - access to recreational and social activities;
  - before- and after-school care programs; and
  - parent involvement.

10. **Pre-School Educational Services**

- Lack of coordination to ensure enrollment of homeless preschool children in school district programs.
- Lack of preschool services to prevent academic deficits;
- Lack of preschool services to address developmental delays; and
- Lack of information to parents and provider agencies on the availability of preschool services.

11. **School District Programs**

- Lack of available funding to school districts for additional programs for homeless students;
- Lack of coordination between school districts and community agencies to establish programs; and
- Lack of awareness of existing community resources which serve homeless families.

1991 OBJECTIVES, ACTIVITIES, TIMELINES

With the reauthorization of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1990 (Appendix A), and the educational obstacles that continue to face homeless children and youth, the following objectives will focus the activities of the Office of Education for Homeless Children and Youth during 1991, 1992 and 1993.

OBJECTIVES

1. To ensure that all homeless children and youth have access to a free and appropriate public education.

2. To monitor school districts' policies, programs and services to homeless children and youth to ensure compliance with federal and state laws and regulations.

3. To ensure that all homeless students receive educational services comparable to services offered to other students, including educational programs such as compensatory, bilingual and special education programs.

4. To revise any state laws, regulations, policies or practices that may act as barriers to enrollment, attendance or success in school for homeless children and youth.

5. To assist school districts in developing and implementing transportation and school records transfer systems which meet the needs of homeless students.

6. To establish a statewide data collection system to determine the number, location and needs of homeless children and youth.

7. To assist school districts in developing programs of supplementary supportive services, including health, nutrition, recreation and social services for homeless students.

8. To provide and administer grant programs to school districts to facilitate enrollment, attendance and success of homeless children and youth in school.

9. To ensure that eligible homeless students are able to participate in before-and after-school care programs.

10. To ensure that homeless pre-school children receive appropriate services.

11. To identify, recognize and disseminate information on exemplary educational programs and practices for homeless children and youth.

12. To coordinate the establishment of linkages between social service agencies, school districts, advocacy groups and other state agencies in order to meet the needs of homeless children and youth more effectively.

13. To develop and implement training programs for school district personnel that address the comprehensive needs of homeless and runaway youth.

14. To develop programs to increase public awareness of, and sensitivity to, the issues surrounding homelessness and its effects on children and youth.

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OBJECTIVE 1: To ensure that all homeless children and youth have access to a free and appropriate public education.

Activities	Timelines	Person(s) Responsible
1. Clarify and disseminate communication that each district is responsible for ensuring that all homeless children and youth attend school.	Fall 1991 and Ongoing	Commissioner of Education
2. Revise a list of designated staff in districts having homeless students. These persons should be responsible for ensuring that all homeless children and youth are enrolled in school and receiving appropriate educational services.	June 1991 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
3. Establish system between social service providers and school districts which ensures that homeless children and youth are enrolled in and attending school.	August 1990 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff Homeless Advisory Council
4. Assist school districts in developing specific outreach plans that include parents so that homeless children and youth housed in their district attend school.	January 1992 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
5. Provide assistance to social service providers in developing case management strategies which enforce the state's compulsory attendance education laws.	October 1988 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
6. Review possible funding sources for districts heavily affected by large numbers of homeless children and youth.	September 1991 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
7. Prepare annual application for federal funding and complete required reports.	May, 1991 December 1991 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff

OBJECTIVE 2: To monitor school districts' policies, programs and services to homeless children and youth to ensure compliance with federal and state laws and regulations.

Activities	Timelines	Person(s) Responsible
1. Identify areas of documentation needed for review.	Summer 1991	Homeless Education Staff
2. Develop an instrument to be used in monitoring for compliance with state and federal specifications for districts.	Summer 1991	Homeless Education Staff
3. Conduct district site visits in preparation for state monitoring. Site visits will focus on obtaining information on: • parent consultation • choice of educational placement • record transfer and enrollment procedures • timelines for enrollment • identification of homeless students • utilization of educational services emergency form • tuition and transportation policies • procedures for inter-district communication • appeal process on county and local level.	Spring 1991 Fall 1991	Homeless Education Staff
4. Develop a schedule for monitoring in coordination with the Chapter 1 audit schedule.	Fall 1991	Homeless Education Staff
5. Notify districts and state agencies of dates of monitoring.	Fall 1991	Homeless Education Staff
6. Implement monitoring schedule during the year for selected school districts.	January 1992	Homeless Education Staff

Activities	Timelines	Person(s) Responsible
7. Implement compliance visitations as a follow-up to complaints reported in the area of services to homeless students.	Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
8. Develop and implement a process for resolving findings.	Spring 1992	Homeless Education Staff
9. Develop and conduct a schedule of program assistance as a follow-up to the monitoring visitations.	Fall 1992	Homeless Education Staff
10. Identify areas of program improvement as a result of program assistance visitations.	Fall 1992	Homeless Education Staff

OBJECTIVE 3: To ensure that all homeless students receive educational services comparable to services offered to other students, including educational programs such as compensatory, bilingual and special education programs.

Activities	Timelines	Person(s) Responsible
1. Develop timely identification and assessment procedures of homeless student educational needs in order to provide required services.	August 1990 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
2. Assist districts in developing inter-district coordination to foster completion of child study team evaluations.	September 1991 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
3. Coordinate educational services to districts having large numbers of homeless students requiring compensatory, bilingual and special education programs.	September 1992 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
4. Ensure that all homeless students who are eligible for Chapter I programs are enrolled and receiving services.	September 1991 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
5. Provide technical assistance to school districts and social service providers in order to ensure that homeless students receive appropriate educational services.	September 1991 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
6. Monitor districts to ensure that homeless students receive appropriate educational services.	January 1992	Homeless Education Staff

OBJECTIVE 4: To revise any state laws regulations, policies or practices that may act as barriers to enrollment, attendance or success in school for homeless children and youth.

Activities	Timelines	Person(s) Responsible
1. Review and revise state laws and regulations to comply with the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1990, P.L. 101-645.	July 1991	Homeless Education Staff Office of Legislative Services Homeless Advisory Council
2. Develop and adopt state and school district policies and practices to ensure that homeless children and youth are not isolated or stigmatized.	September 1991 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
3. Clarify and disseminate communication that each district's board of education review and revise any policies which may act as a barrier to homeless students.	Fall 1991	Commissioner of Education
4. Coordinate the implementation of regulations and policies to comply with state laws.	September 1990 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff County Homeless Education Liaisons
5. Visit targeted school districts to ensure implementation of revised residency law for homeless students, effective July 1, 1990. Site visits will focus on obtaining information on: • parent consultation • choice of educational placement • record transfer and enrollment procedures • timelines for enrollment • identification of homeless students • use of educational service emergency referral form • tuition and transportation policies • procedures for inter-district communication • appeal process on county and local level	May 1991 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff County Homeless Education Liaisons

Activities	Timelines	Person(s) Responsible
6. Conduct site visits to targeted shelters and social services providers. Information will focus on knowledge of state law and issues in implementation.	January 1991 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
7. Develop guidelines to assist school districts in implementation of laws based upon site visits to school districts and social service providers.	January 1992	Homeless Education Staff

OBJECTIVE 5: To assist school districts in developing and implementing transportation and school records transfer systems which meet the needs of homeless students.

Activities	Timelines	Person(s) Responsible
1. Evaluate districts' implementation of transportation services to homeless students.	May 1991 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
2. Develop guidelines to help districts provide transportation services to homeless students.	January 1992	Homeless Education Staff Homeless Advisory Council
3. Explore funding sources and coordinate services to help school districts provide transportation to homeless students.	September 1991 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
4. Identify counties which have developed successful transportation strategies as models for other counties.	September 1991 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff County Homeless Education Liaisons
5. Review current state and district policies regarding registration and transfer of students.	September 1991 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
6. Establish specific strategies addressing school and health records and timelines applicable to all school districts that would result in timely registration and immediate entrance of homeless students to school.	January 1992 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff Homeless Advisory Council
7. Encourage school districts to assist homeless families in securing school and health records and to obtain proper immunizations.	September 1990 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff Homeless Advisory Council
8. Monitor to ensure that school districts appropriately provide transportation services and enroll homeless students according to state policy.	January 1992	Homeless Education Staff

Activities	Timelines	Person(s) Responsible
9. Establish and disseminate statewide list of agencies serving homeless families.	September 1991	Homeless Education Staff Homeless Advisory Council

OBJECTIVE 6: To establish a statewide data collection system to determine the number, location and needs of homeless children and youth.

Activities	Timelines	Person(s) Responsible
1. Coordinate data collection efforts with other public and private agencies at the state and county level to determine what procedures are in use.	Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
2. Conduct a survey of all agencies serving homeless children and youth who are not AFDC eligible to determine their numbers, ages and needs.	Fall 1991	Homeless Education Staff
3. Conduct survey of school districts to ascertain number, location, educational needs and services provided to homeless children and youth.	Fall 1991	Homeless Education Staff
4. Review homeless student survey results, case studies and other information to project the number and location of homeless children and youth who are <u>not</u> attending school.	Fall 1991	Homeless Education Staff Homeless Advisory Council
5. Collaborate with other state and local agencies in the development of a statewide system by which to count: • children of AFDC families; • children of working poor families; and • children of doubled up families.	Fall 1991 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
6. Present findings to the U.S. Department of Education in year-end report.	December 1991	Homeless Education Staff
7. Establish and disseminate statewide list of agencies serving homeless families.	Fall 1991	Homeless Education Staff Homeless Advisory Council

OBJECTIVE 7: To assist school districts in developing programs of supplementary supportive services, including health, nutrition, recreation and social services for homeless students.

Activities	Timelines	Person(s) Responsible
1. Survey districts regarding the health, nutritional, recreational and social needs of their homeless student population.	Fall 1992	Homeless Education Staff
2. Develop strategies and activities to meet the specific needs identified by district surveys.	Fall 1992	Homeless Education Staff
3. Coordinate with the Bureau of Child Nutrition the development of programs for homeless students.	Summer 1991 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
4. Develop strategies which facilitate the health screening process of homeless students at school district level.	Fall 1991	Homeless Education Staff
5. Facilitate establishment of networks with nutritional, health, recreational and counseling agencies.	January 1992	Homeless Education Staff
6. Establish and disseminate statewide list of agencies serving homeless families.	Fall 1991	Homeless Education Staff Homeless Advisory Council
7. Develop and administer grants to school districts for the development of programs which address the educational, physical, social and psychological needs of homeless children and youth, which may include the following: • tutoring; • counseling services; • enrichment activities; • recreation activities; • summer programs; • nutritional support; • health and hygiene counseling; and • parental involvement. (See Objective 8)	Fall 1991	Homeless Education Staff

OBJECTIVE 8: To provide and administer grant programs to school districts to facilitate enrollment, attendance and success of homeless children and youth in school.

Activities	Timelines	Person(s) Responsible
1. Use established department procedures to disseminate a request for proposal and make grant awards to districts.	Fall 1991	Homeless Education Staff
2. Allocate grants using the following federal criteria: • At least 50 percent of the funds provided to a school district must be used to provide tutoring, remedial education services, or other education services to homeless children and youth. • At least 35 percent, but not more than 50 percent, of the funds provided to school districts may be used for activities that may include: • expedited evaluations of the strengths and needs of homeless children and youth; • professional development for school personnel to develop awareness and heighten sensitivity to needs and rights of homeless children and youth; • referral services for medical, dental, mental and other health services; • assistance to defray excess cost of transportation not otherwise provided through other funding;	Fall 1991	Homeless Education Staff

Activities	Timelines	Person(s) Responsible
• developmentally appropriate early childhood programs for preschool age children; • before- and after-school and summer programs with qualified personnel; • where necessary, payment of fees and costs associated with tracking, obtaining and transferring records; • parent education and training of parents about rights and resources available to their children; • coordination between schools and agencies providing services to homeless; • counseling, social work and psychological services; • activities to address particular needs of homeless children and youth that may arise from domestic violence; • programs for school personnel to heighten awareness of specific educational needs of runaway and homeless youth; • adaptation of space and purchase of supplies for nonschool facilities made available to provide services; and • school supplies at the shelter or temporary housing facilities.		
3. Evaluate projects' performances and disseminate successful models for replication in other districts throughout the state via reports and workshops.	Summer/Fall 1992	Homeless Education Staff

OBJECTIVE 9: To ensure that eligible homeless students are able to participate in before-and after-school care and summer programs.

Activities	Timelines	Person(s) Responsible
1. Review district policies to ensure that homeless students are not denied enrollment in any available before and after-school care and summer programs.	Fall 1992	Homeless Education Staff
2. Identify community resources providing these services.	Summer 1992	Homeless Education Staff
3. Provide information to parents on the services available to students.	Fall 1992	Homeless Education Staff
4. Assist districts to develop services by disseminating grant applications and allocations. (See Objective 8)	Fall 1991	Homeless Education Staff
5. Facilitate coordination among school districts, parents and social service providers to ensure participation of homeless students in programs.	Fall 1992 Spring 1993	Homeless Education Staff

OBJECTIVE 10: To ensure that homeless preschool children receive developmentally appropriate services.

Activities	Timelines	Person(s) Responsible
1. Identify preschool programs on a district and community level.	Summer 1992	Homeless Education Staff
2. Provide information to parents on the benefits and availability of preschool programs.	Fall 1992	Homeless Education Staff
3. Coordinate service delivery between school districts and community preschool programs, e.g., Head Start, Even Start, etc.	Fall 1992 Spring 1993	Homeless Education Staff
4. Determine that homeless students are not denied enrollment in preschool programs because of residency requirements.	Fall 1992	Homeless Education Staff
5. Encourage school districts to include preschool services when applying for homeless assistance grants.	Fall 1991	Homeless Education Staff
6. Disseminate information to districts and service agencies on the needs of preschool homeless children to heighten awareness and foster program development.	Fall 1992	Homeless Education Staff
7. Coordinate services on the state level to homeless preschool children.	Summer 1992	Homeless Education Staff

OBJECTIVE 11: To identify, recognize and disseminate information on exemplary educational programs and practices for homeless children and youth.

Activities	Timelines	Person(s) Responsible
1. Develop criteria for identifying exemplary homeless education programs and practices.	July 1992	Homeless Education Staff Chapter 1 Program Staff
2. Identify existing exemplary homeless education programs and practices.	September 1992	Homeless Education Staff
3. Disseminate criteria and application form to school districts and/or interested agencies and encourage participation.	Fall 1992	Homeless Education Staff Chapter 1 Program Staff
4. Review submitted applications and rate according to established criteria.	Spring 1993	Homeless Education Staff Chapter 1 Program Staff
5. Select and visit programs.	Spring 1993	Homeless Education Staff
6. Review above data and make final selection of exemplary educational programs for homeless children and youth.	Spring 1993	Homeless Education Staff
7. Recognize and disseminate exemplary program information for replication in other communities.	September 1993	Homeless Education Staff
8. Provide technical assistance in developing exemplary programs and practices which meet the educational needs of homeless students.	September 1993	Homeless Education Staff
9. Evaluate progress and outcome of homeless education pilot projects in Newark and East Orange.	July 1991 December 1991	Homeless Education Staff

Activities	Timelines	Person(s) Responsible
10. Explore public and private funding sources to support and expand exemplary programs.	September 1992 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
11. Support state and federal legislative efforts that provide funding for these services.	Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff

OBJECTIVE 12: To coordinate the establishment of linkages between social service agencies, school districts, advocacy groups and other state agencies in order to effectively meet the needs of homeless children and youth.

Activities	Timelines	Person(s) Responsible
1. Evaluate system between county welfare agencies and school districts which facilitates identification and enrollment of homeless students.	January 1991 and Ongoing	Homeless Education staff
2. Investigate and implement systems whereby homeless students of working poor and doubled up families are identified and receive appropriate educational services.	January 1992 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
3. Identify and develop statewide list of social service providers' services to homeless families.	Fall 1991	Homeless Education Staff Homeless Advisory Council
4. Disseminate to school districts resource list of social service providers.	January 1992	Homeless Education Staff
5. Participate in local county and state level committees and conferences which deal with homeless children and youth issues.	Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
6. Coordinate activities of the New Jersey Advisory Council on the Education of Homeless Children and Youth.	February 1990 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
7. Coordinate assistance network of school districts and local resources to meet the educational needs of homeless children.	September 1991 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
8. Participate in network of state agencies providing services to homeless children and youth.	Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff

Activities	Timelines	Person(s) Responsible
9. Coordinate with other state agencies to plan and hold a statewide conference on homeless children.	Fall 1992	Homeless Education Staff Division of Educational Programs and Student Services
10. Participate in national and regional meetings of state homeless education coordinators from around the country to develop systems of information exchange and problem resolution.	Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff

OBJECTIVE 13: To develop and implement training programs for school district personnel that address the comprehensive needs of homeless and runaway youth.

Activities	Timelines	Person(s) Responsible
1. Assess the training needs of school personnel.	Spring 1991	Homeless Education Staff
2. Conduct research to identify effective strategies used by educators serving homeless children and youth.	Spring/Summer 1991	Homeless Education Staff
3. Develop training materials and publications based on the research conducted and the needs determined.	Fall 1991 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff Homeless Advisory Council
4. Coordinate training programs with social service providers to elicit their perspective and enlist their participation.	Fall 1991	Homeless Education Staff
5. Conduct training programs for school personnel to heighten awareness of and sensitivity to the specific educational needs of homeless children, including runaway youth.	Fall 1991 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
6. Administer an evaluation form to participants to determine effectiveness of training.	Fall 1991 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
7. Offer workshops through Chapter 1 Training Institute (COTI).	Spring 1992 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
8. Conduct county and district liaison training sessions	Fall 1991 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff

OBJECTIVE 14: To develop programs to increase public awareness of, and sensitivity to, the issues surrounding homelessness and its effects on children and youth.

Activities	Timelines	Person(s) Responsible
1. Develop programs which will create awareness of the effects of homelessness on children and youth.	Summer 1991	Homeless Education Staff
2. Identify key community groups and agencies through which to present awareness programs.	Summer 1991	Homeless Education Staff Homeless Advisory Council
3. Conduct workshops in collaboration with other agencies for social service providers, parents and community groups on the educational issues surrounding homelessness.	Fall 1991 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
4. Develop opportunities for homeless or previously homeless parents to address groups about the experiences of homelessness.	Fall 1991 and Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
5. Serve as an information clearinghouse for school districts, social service providers, advocates, parents and the community at large.	Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff
6. Support and encourage public awareness initiatives on the needs of homeless children and youth.	Ongoing	Homeless Education Staff Homeless Advisory Council
7. Assess the need to establish a toll-free telephone number as a source of answers to individual questions and concerns.	Fall 1991	Homeless Education Staff
8. Coordinate with other state agencies to plan and hold a statewide conference on homeless children and youth.	Fall 1992	Homeless Education Staff Division of Educational Programs and Student Services

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IV. PLAN OF OPERATION

Management Plan

All of the Office of Education for Homeless Children and Youth activities and services operate within the Division of Educational Programs and Student Services. Staff from the Office of Education for Homeless Children and Youth will implement all activities. This office will coordinate program activities with other state and local agencies providing services to homeless children and youth.

All program activities will be coordinated as follows:

- The coordinator of the Office of Education for Homeless Children and Youth will oversee all objectives and will be responsible for ensuring that activities are completed in a timely manner.
- Meetings will be held with county office of education staff assigned to serve as contacts to the office.
- Personnel from the Departments of Education and Human Services responsible for cooperative activities will meet on a regular basis to plan and coordinate.
- All activities will be documented and evaluated.
- The Department of Education abides by and follows all fiscal regulations and procedures of the State Department of Treasury. The treasury department governs the expenditures of all funds, including those related to federal grants. The control of the funds will be the responsibility of the Director of the Bureau of Basic Skills, who will keep an account of all balances and expenses.

Methods Used to Provide Services

To provide the major services proposed in the activities section, the Office of Education for Homeless Children and Youth will use the following:

- data gathering: through surveys, evaluation reports and questionnaires;
- training: through regional workshops, seminars, general meetings and on-site visits;
- program monitoring and evaluation: through on-site visits to school districts and shelters, interviews with staff, use of surveys and checklists;
- technical assistance: through on-site meetings, group sessions, seminars, workshops and published documents;
- information dissemination: through correspondence, newsletters, phone contacts, meetings, conferences, news releases, publications; and

- outreach activities: through mailings, direct phone contact, on-site visits, round-table discussions and conferences.

Evaluation

Throughout the development and implementation process, evaluation activities will be undertaken by the Office of Education for Homeless Children and Youth. These evaluation activities will measure progress made towards the objectives. The evaluation data will include the following:

- notices, agendas, minutes and records of attendance at meetings;
- workshop and conference evaluation forms;
- reports by staff;
- copies of documents and materials produced for dissemination;
- logs of technical assistance sessions; and
- program reports of field and monitoring visits to school districts.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

In order to provide the public with the opportunity to comment, a draft of the plan was circulated to county superintendents, members of the New Jersey State Advisory Council on the Education of Homeless Children and Youth and representatives of government agencies and advocacy groups. All were urged to provide input to the Office of Education for Homeless Children and Youth. An emergency meeting of the state advisory council was held on May 17, 1991 for this purpose. While it was generally felt that the revised document is a comprehensive one, specific recommendations were offered to strengthen the effectiveness of the plan.

Recommendations from Public Testimony

Following are the recommendations received by the Office of Education for Homeless Children and Youth at the May 17th meeting. The advisory council will assist with the following:

- Coordination between social service providers and school districts;
- Establishment of statewide data collection system;
- Development of linkages on a county and local level;
- Development of training programs; and
- Increasing public awareness and sensitivity to homeless children by identifying community groups and supporting public awareness initiatives.

Additional recommendations received by the Office of Education for Homeless Children and Youth concerned the following areas of the plan:

Language Clarification

- The terms referring to homeless children and youth by income eligibility need to be clarified.

Examples of Homelessness

- Specific examples of homeless living situations should be included to clarify who can be considered homeless in New Jersey.

Homeless Education Liaisons

- It is important that this information be kept current.
- It is not practical in most instances for a district superintendent to assume this demanding responsibility.
- The position of district liaison should be funded to carry out homeless education activities.

Transportation

- Alternate methods of transporting homeless students need to be explored for those districts that are unable to transport beyond their boundaries.

Responsibility to Implement the Plan

- Concern was raised as to the feasibility of meeting these objectives given the size (two staff) of the Office of Education for Homeless Children and Youth.

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APPENDIX A

STEWART B. MCKINNEY ACT, P.L. 100-77

STEWART B. MCKINNEY AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1990, P.L. 101-645

Subtitle B—Education for Homeless Children and Youth

SEC. 721. STATEMENT OF POLICY. 42 USC 11431.

It is the policy of the Congress that—

(1) each State educational agency shall assure that each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth have access to a free, appropriate public education which would be provided to the children of a resident of a State and is consistent with the State school attendance laws; and

(2) in any State that has a residency requirement as a component of its compulsory school attendance laws, the State will review and undertake steps to revise such laws to assure that the children of homeless individuals and homeless youth are afforded a free and appropriate public education.

SEC. 722. GRANTS FOR STATE ACTIVITIES FOR THE EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH. 42 USC 11432.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Education is, in accordance with the provisions of this section, authorized to make grants to States to carry out the activities described in subsections (c), (d), and (e).

(b) ALLOCATION.—From the amounts appropriated for each fiscal year pursuant to subsection (g), the Secretary shall allot to each State an amount which bears the same ratio to the amount appropriated in each such year as the amount allocated under section 111

20 USC 3801 note.

of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (as incorporated by reference in chapter 1 of the Education Consolidation and Improvement Act of 1981) to the local educational agencies in the State in that year bears to the total amount allocated to such agencies in all States, except that no State shall receive less than $50,000 in any fiscal year.

(c) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Grants under this section shall be used—

(1) to carry out the policies set forth in section 721 in the State;

Office of Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth, establishment.

(2) to establish or designate an Office of Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth in accordance with subsection (d); and

(3) to prepare and carry out the State plan described in subsection (e).

(d) FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE OF COORDINATOR.—The Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth established in each State shall—

Schools and colleges.

(1) gather data on the number and location of homeless children and youth in the State, and such data gathering shall include the nature and extent of problems of access to, and placement of, homeless children and homeless youth in elementary and secondary schools, and the difficulties in identifying the special needs of such children;

(2) develop and carry out the State plan described in subsection (e); and

Reports.

(3) prepare and submit to the Secretary an interim report not later than December 31, 1987, and a final report not later than December 31, 1988, on the data gathered pursuant to paragraph (1).

To the extent that reliable current data is available in the State, each coordinator described in this subsection may use such data to fulfill the requirements of paragraph (1).

(e) STATE PLAN.—

(1) Each State shall adopt a plan to provide for the education of each homeless child or homeless youth within the State which will contain provisions designed to—

(A) authorize the State educational agency, the local educational agency, the parent or guardian of the homeless child, the homeless youth, or the applicable social worker to make the determinations required under this section; and

(B) provide procedures for the resolution of disputes regarding the educational placement of homeless children and youth.

(2) Each plan adopted under this subsection shall assure, to the extent practicable under requirements relating to education established by State law, that local educational agencies within the State will comply with the requirements of paragraphs (3) through (6).

(3) The local educational agency of each homeless child or youth shall either—

(A) continue the child's or youth's education in the school district of origin for the remainder of the school year; or

(B) enroll the child or youth in the school district where the child or youth is actually living;

whichever is in the child's best interest or the youth's best interest.

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(4) The choice regarding placement shall be made regardless of whether the child or youth is living with the homeless parents or has been temporarily placed elsewhere by the parents.

(5) Each homeless child shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected according to the provisions of paragraph (3), including educational services for which the child meets the eligibility criteria, such as compensatory educational programs for the disadvantaged, and educational programs for the handicapped and for students with limited English proficiency; programs in vocational education; programs for the gifted and talented; and school meals programs.

(6) The school records of each homeless child or youth shall be maintained— Records.

(A) so that the records are available, in a timely fashion, when a child or youth enters a new school district; and

(B) in a manner consistent with section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act. 20 USC 1232g.

(f) APPLICATION.—No State may receive a grant under this section unless the State educational agency submits an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing or accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) There are authorized to be appropriated $5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1987 and 1988 to carry out the provisions of this section.

(2) Sums appropriated in each fiscal year shall remain available for the succeeding fiscal year.

SEC. 723. EXEMPLARY GRANTS AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED. 42 USC 11433.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

(1) The Secretary shall, from funds appropriated pursuant to subsection (f), make grants for exemplary programs that successfully address the needs of homeless students in elementary and secondary schools of the applicant.

(2) The Secretary shall, in accordance with subsection (e), conduct dissemination activities of exemplary programs designed to meet the educational needs of homeless elementary and secondary school students.

(b) APPLICANTS.—The Secretary shall make grants to State and local educational agencies for the purpose described in paragraph (1) of subsection (a).

(c) ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS.—No applicant may receive an exemplary grant under this section unless the applicant is located in a State which has submitted a State plan in accordance with the provisions of section 722.

(d) APPLICATION.—Each applicant which desires to receive a demonstration grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing or accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require. Each such application shall include—

(1) a description of the exemplary program for which assistance is sought;

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(2) assurances that the applicant will transmit informa with respect to the conduct of the program for which assist is sought; and

(3) such additional assurances that the Secretary determ are necessary.

(e) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ACTIVITIES.—The Secre shall, from funds appropriated pursuant to subsection (f), conc directly or indirectly by way of grant, contract, or other arra ment, dissemination activities designed to inform State and l educational agencies of exemplary programs which successfully dress the special needs of homeless students.

(f) APPROPRIATIONS AUTHORIZED.—There is authorized to be ap priated $2,500,000 for fiscal year 1988 to carry out the provisior this section.

Reports.
42 USC 11434.

SEC. 724. NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE.—The Comptroller Genera the United States shall prepare and submit to the Congress not l than June 30, 1988, a report on the number of homeless children youth in all States.

(b) SECRETARIAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—

(1) The Secretary shall monitor and review compliance v the provisions of this subtitle in accordance with the provis of the General Education Provisions Act.

(2) The Secretary shall prepare and submit a report to Congress on the programs and activities authorized by subtitle at the end of each fiscal year.

(3) The Secretary shall compile and submit a report to Congress containing the information received from the St pursuant to section 722(dX3) within 45 days of its receipt.

42 USC 11435.

SEC. 725. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this subtitle—

(1) the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Educat and

(2) the term "State" means each of the several States, District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto F

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"Sec. 702. State literacy initiatives.".

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 702(c)(1) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11421(c)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

"(1) There is authorized to be appropriated $10,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1989 and 1990 for the adult literacy and basic skills remediation programs authorized by this section.".

(c) DEFINITION OF STATE.—Section 702(d) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11421(d)) is amended—

(1) by striking "and"; and

(2) by inserting before the period at the end the following: ", the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands".

SEC. 702. EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

(a) GRANTS FOR STATE ACTIVITIES.—

(1) ALLOCATION.—Section 722(b) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11432(b)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: "and 0.1 percent of the amount appropriated for each fiscal year shall be allocated by the Secretary among the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands". Territories, U.S.

(2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 722(b) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11432(b)) is amended by striking "section 111" and all that follows through "of 1981)" and inserting "section 1005 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965".

(3) DATA GATHERING.—Section 722(d)(1) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11432(d)(1)) is amended by inserting "annually" before "gather".

(4) REPORTS.—Section 722(d)(3) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11432(d)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

"(3) prepare and submit to the Secretary not later than December 31 of each year a report on the data gathered pursuant to paragraph (1).". Reports.

(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 722(g)(1) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11432(g)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

"(1) There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1989 and 1990.".

(b) EXEMPLARY GRANTS AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—Section 723(f) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11433(f)) is amended to read as follows:

"(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $2,500,000 for each of the fiscal years 1989 and 1990.".

(c) DEFINITION OF STATE.—Section 725(2) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11435(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking "and"; and

(2) by inserting before the period at the end the following: ", the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands".

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Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1990.

TITLE VI—EDUCATION, TRAINING, COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND FAMILY SUPPORT

42 USC 11301 note.

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1990".

SEC. 602. DEFINITION OF HOMELESS.

Section 103(b) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302(b)) is amended to read as follows:

"(b) INCOME ELIGIBILITY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A homeless individual shall be eligible for assistance under any program provided by this Act, only if the individual complies with the income eligibility requirements otherwise applicable to such program.

"(2) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a homeless individual shall be eligible for assistance under the Job Training Partnership Act.".

Subtitle A—Provisions Relating to Literacy and Education

SEC. 611. STATEWIDE LITERACY INITIATIVE.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 702(c)(1) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11421(c)(1)) is amended by inserting after "and 1990" the following: ", $13,700,000 for fiscal year 1991, and such sums as may be necessary in each of the fiscal years 1992 and 1993,".

(b) APPLICATION.—Section 702(b) of such Act is amended by striking out "and the number" and all that follows through "to be served".

SEC. 612. EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH. 42 USC 11421

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—Section 721 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by inserting after "attendance laws" the following: "or other laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as a barrier to the enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and homeless youth";

(B) by inserting ", regulations, practices, or policies" after "such laws"; and

(C) by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) homelessness alone should not be sufficient reason to separate students from the mainstream school environment.".

(b) GRANTS FOR STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES.—Section 722 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 11432) is amended—

(1) in the section heading by inserting "AND LOCAL" after "STATE";

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking out "section 1005" and inserting in lieu thereof "part A of chapter 1 of title I"; and

(B) by striking out $50,000 and all that follows through the end thereof and inserting the following "$50,000. The Secretary shall reserve 0.1 percent of the amount appropriated for each fiscal year to be allocated by the Secretary among the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Palau (until the Compact of Free Association with Palau takes effect pursuant to section 101(a) of Public Law 99-658), according to their respective need, as determined by the Secretary, except that no such territory shall receive less in fiscal year 1991 than it received in fiscal year 1990. The Secretary may also reserve not to exceed 1 percent of the amount appropriated for each fiscal year for programs for Indian students served by schools funded by the Secretary of the Interior, as determined under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act consistent with the purposes of this Act. As used in this subsection, the term 'State' shall not include the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or Palau.";

Territories.

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively;

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

"(2) to provide activities for and services to homeless children and homeless youths that enable such children and youths to enroll in, attend, and achieve success in school;";

(C) by striking out "and" at the end of paragraph (3) (as so redesignated);

(D) by striking out the period at the end of paragraph (4) (as so redesignated) and inserting in lieu thereof a semicolon; and

(E) by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraphs:

"(5) to develop and implement programs for school personnel to heighten awareness of specific problems of the education of homeless children and youth; and

"(6) if amounts appropriated for the applicable fiscal year exceed the amount appropriated for fiscal year 1990 under this section, to provide grants to local educational agencies for purposes of this section, and if such amounts appropriated do not exceed the amount appropriated for fiscal year 1991, the State education agency, at the discretion of such agency, may provide such grants.";

(4) in subsection (d)(1)—

(A) by striking "annually" and inserting "once every 2 years,";

(B) by inserting after "shall include" the following: "the number of homeless children and homeless youths enrolled in schools in the State, determined through random sampling or other statistical methods that ensure that such children and youths are not overtly identified as being homeless,";

(C) by striking "and the difficulties" and inserting "the difficulties"; and

(D) by inserting before the semicolon the following: ", and any progress made by the State educational agency and local educational agencies within the State in addressing such problems and difficulties";

(5) in subsection (d)(2) by striking "and" at the end thereof;

(6) in subsection (d)(3)—

(A) by striking "of each year" and inserting ", 1991, and on December 31 of every second year thereafter"; and

(B) by striking the period at the end thereof and inserting a semicolon; and

(7) in subsection (d), by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraphs:

"(4) facilitate coordination between the State education agency, the State social services agency, and other agencies providing services to homeless children and youth and their families; and

"(5) develop relationships and coordinate with other relevant education, child development, or preschool programs and providers of services to homeless children, homeless families, and runaway and homeless youths (including domestic violence agencies, shelter operators, transitional housing facilities, runaway and homeless youth centers, and transitional living programs for homeless youths) in order to improve the provision of comprehensive services to homeless children and homeless youths and the families of such children and youths.";

(8) in subsection (e)(1)—

(A) by striking "and" at the end of subparagraph (A);

(B)(i) by inserting "prompt" before "resolution" in subparagraph (B); and

(ii) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

"(C) develop programs for school personnel (including principals, attendance officers, teachers, and enrollment personnel), to heighten the awareness of such personnel of the specific educational needs of runaway and homeless youths; and

"(D) ensure that homeless children and homeless youths who meet the relevant eligibility criteria are able to participate in Federal, State, or local food programs.";

"(E) ensure that homeless children and homeless youths who meet the relevant eligibility criteria are able to participate in Federal, State, or local before- and after-school care programs and provide for the disclosure of data concerning the participation of such children in such programs in plans submitted by the State after the initial plan of the State;

"(F) address problems set forth in the report provided to the Secretary under subsection (d)(3);

"(G) address problems with respect to the education of homeless children and homeless youths, including problems caused by—

"(i) transportation issues; and

"(ii) enrollment delays which are caused by—

"(I) immunization requirements;

"(II) residency requirements;

"(III) lack of birth certificates, school records, or other documentation; or

"(IV) guardianship issues;

"(H) demonstrate that the State and local educational agencies in the State have developed and will review and revise policies to remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of homeless children and homeless youths in schools of the State; and

"(I) ensure that the State educational agency and local educational agencies within the State will adopt policies and practices to ensure that homeless children and homeless youths are not isolated or stigmatized.";

(9) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking out "(6)" in paragraph (2) and inserting in lieu thereof "(9)";

(B) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

"(3)(A) The local educational agency of each homeless child and each homeless youth shall either—

"(i) continue the child's or youth's education in the school of origin—

"(I) for the remainder of the academic year; or

"(II) in any case in which a family becomes homeless between academic years, for the following academic year; or

"(ii) enroll the child or youth in any school that nonhomeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend;

whichever is in the child's best interest or the youth's best interest.

"(B) In determining the best interests of the child or youth for purposes of making a school assignment under subparagraph (A), consideration shall be given to a request made by a parent regarding school selection.

"(C) For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'school of origin' shall mean the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed, or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.";

(C) by inserting after "including" in paragraph (5) the following: "transportation services,";

(D) by striking "The schools records" in paragraph (6) and inserting the following: "Any record ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records, and evaluations for special services or programs,"; and

(E) by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraphs:

"(7) Each local educational agency serving homeless children or youth that receives assistance under this title shall coordinate with local social services agencies, and other agencies or programs providing services to such children or youth and their families.

"(8) Each local educational agency that receives assistance under this title shall designate a homelessness liaison to ensure that—

"(A) homeless children and youth enroll and succeed in the schools of that agency; and

"(B) homeless families, children and youth receive educational services for which they are eligible, and referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services, and other appropriate services.

State coordinators and local educational agency liaisons shall inform school personnel, service providers and advocates working with homeless families of the duties of the liaisons.

"(9) Each State and local educational agency shall review and revise any policies that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless children and youth in schools selected in accordance with paragraph (3). In reviewing and revising such policies, consideration shall be given to issues concerning transportation, requirements of immunization, residency, birth certificates, school records, or other documentation, and guardianship. Special attention shall be given to ensuring the enrollment and attendance of homeless children and youths who are not currently attending school."; and

(10) in subsection (g)—

(A) by striking out "$5,000,000" in paragraph (1) and all that follows through the end thereof and inserting in lieu thereof "$50,000,000 for fiscal year 1991, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1992 and 1993.";

(B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (4); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraphs:

"(2) The State educational agency may reserve not to exceed 5 percent of the amount received by such agency under this section in each fiscal year, or an amount equal to the amount received by such State agency for State activities under this section in fiscal year 1990, whichever is greater, to conduct activities under paragraphs (1) through (5) of subsection (c).

"(3)(A) In any fiscal year in which the amount appropriated under paragraph (1) does not equal or exceed $100,000,000, the State educational agency shall use funds not otherwise reserved under paragraph (2) to award grants to local educational agencies in accordance with subsection (c)(6).

"(B) In any fiscal year in which the amount appropriated under paragraph (1) equals or exceeds $100,000,000, the State educational agency shall use funds not otherwise reserved under paragraph (2) to allocate to each local educational agency an amount that bears the same ratio to amount not otherwise reserved as the aggregate amount received by such local educational agency under part A of chapter 1 of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 for such fiscal year bears to the aggregate amount received by all local educational agencies in the State for purposes of carrying out such part for such fiscal year.".

(c) GRANTS FOR THE EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH.—Section 723 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 11433) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 723. LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY GRANTS FOR THE EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

"(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

"(1) GRANTEES AND PURPOSE OF GRANTS.—The State educational agency shall, in accordance with section 722(c)(6) and from amounts made available to such agency under section 722, make grants to local educational agencies for the purpose of facilitating the enrollment, attendance and success of homeless children and youths in schools.

"(2) USE OF GRANTS.—Unless otherwise specified, services under paragraph (1) may be provided through programs on school grounds or at other nonsectarian facilities. Where services are provided through programs on school grounds, such services may also be made available to children or youths who are determined by the local educational agency to be at risk of failing in or dropping out of schools, except that priority for such services shall be given to homeless children and homeless youths. To the maximum extent practicable, services shall be provided through existing programs and mechanisms that integrate homeless individuals with nonhomeless individuals.

"(3) REGULAR ACADEMIC PROGRAM.—Services provided under this section are not intended to replace the regular academic program.

"(b) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—

"(1) PRIMARY ACTIVITIES.—Not less than 50 percent of amounts provided under a grant under this section shall be used to provide tutoring, remedial education services, or other education services to homeless children or homeless youths.

"(2) RELATED ACTIVITIES.—Not less than 35, nor more than 50, percent of the amounts provided under a grant under this section may be used for activities that may include—

"(A) the provision of expedited evaluations of the strengths and needs of homeless children and homeless youths, including needs and eligibility for programs and services (including gifted and talented programs, special education programs, programs for students with limited English proficiency, and remedial services);

"(B) professional development for educators and other school personnel that is designed to develop awareness and sensitivity to the needs of homeless children and homeless youths and the rights of such children and youths under this Act;

"(C) the provision of referral services to homeless children and homeless youths for medical, dental, mental, and other health services;

"(D) the provision of assistance to defray the excess cost of transportation for students not provided under section 722(e)(5) and not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funding, where necessary to enable students to attend the school selected under section 722(e)(3);

"(E) the provision of developmentally appropriate early childhood programs for preschool age children;

"(F) the provision of before- and after-school and summer programs for homeless children or homeless youths in which a teacher or other qualified individual provides tutoring, homework assistance, and supervision of educational activities;

"(G) where necessary, the payment of fees and other costs associated with tracking, obtaining, and transferring records necessary to enroll homeless children or homeless youths in school, including birth certificates, immunization records, academic records, guardianship records, and evaluations for special programs or services;

"(H) the provision of parent education and training to the parents of homeless children and homeless youths about the rights of and resources available to such children and youths;

"(I) the development of coordination between schools and agencies providing services to homeless children and homeless youths;

"(J) the provision of counseling, social work and psychological services, including violence counseling, and referrals for such services;

"(K) activities to address the particular needs of homeless children and homeless youths that may arise from domestic violence;

"(L) activities to develop and implement programs for school personnel to heighten the awareness of such personnel of the specific educational needs of runaway and homeless youths;

"(M) the adaptation of space and the purchase of supplies for nonschool facilities made available under subsection (a)(2) to provide services under this subsection;

"(N) the provision of school supplies to be distributed at the shelter or temporary housing facilities; and

"(O) the provision of such other extraordinary or emergency assistance determined by the Secretary as essential to enable homeless children and youth to attend school.

"(3) ELIGIBILITY.—No State or local educational agency may receive a grant under this section unless the State in which the agency is located has submitted a State plan as required by section 722(e).

"(c) AWARDS.—

"(1) BASIS.—Except as provided in section 722(g)(3)(B), from amounts appropriated for each fiscal year under section 722(g), the State educational agency may award grants under this section to local educational agencies submitting an application under subsection (d) on the basis of the need of such agencies.

"(2) DETERMINATION.—In determining need under paragraph (1), the State educational agency may consider the number of homeless children and homeless youth enrolled in preschool, elementary, and secondary schools within the area served by the agency, and shall consider the needs of such children and youth, and the ability of the agency to meet such needs. Such agency may also consider—

"(A) the extent to which the proposed use of funds would facilitate the enrollment, retention, and educational success of homeless children and youth;

"(B) the extent to which the application reflects coordination with other local and State agencies that serve homeless children and youth, as well as the State Plan required by section 722(e);

"(C) the extent to which the applicant exhibits in the application and in current practice a commitment to education for all homeless children and youth in its jurisdiction; and

"(D) other criteria as the agency determines appropriate.

"(d) APPLICATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency that desires to receive a grant under this section shall submit an application to the State educational agency at such time, in such manner, and containing or accompanied by such information as the State agency may reasonably require according to guidelines issued by the Secretary. Each such application shall include—

"(A) a description of the services and programs for which assistance is sought and the problems sought to be addressed through the provision of such services and programs;

"(B) assurances that the applicant complies with or will use requested funds to come into compliance with paragraphs (3) through (9) of section 722(e);

"(C) an assurance that assistance under the grant will supplement and not supplant funds used before the award of the grant for purposes of providing services to homeless children and homeless youths; and

"(D) a description of policies and procedures that the agency will implement to ensure that activities carried out by the agency will not isolate or stigmatize homeless children and homeless youth.

"(3) TERM OF AWARDS.—Grants awarded under this section shall be for terms of not to exceed 2 years.

"(e) REPORTS.—Each State educational agency that receives a grant under this section for any fiscal year shall, as part of the plan of the State submitted under section 722(c)(4), provide to Secretary data concerning—

"(1) the number of homeless children and homeless youths served with assistance provided under the grant under this section; and

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"(2) a description of the success of the program under this section in allowing homeless children and homeless youths to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school.".

(d) NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—Section 724(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 11434) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by adding at the end thereof the following new sentences: "In reviewing the State plans submitted by the State educational agencies under section 722(e), the Secretary shall evaluate whether State laws, policies, and practices described in such plans adequately address the problems of homeless children and homeless youth relating to access to education and placement as described in such plans.";

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraphs:

Government contracts.

"(2)(A) The Secretary, in consultation with persons and organizations that are knowledgeable about the needs of homeless children and youth, shall, through the awarding of a grant, or through entering into a contract or cooperative agreement, conduct a study to determine the best means of identifying, locating, and counting homeless children and youth for the purposes of this subtitle. Such persons and organizations to be consulted shall include representatives of State coordinators, local educational agencies with substantial numbers of homeless children and youth, local government agencies with responsibility for administering homeless shelters, and advocacy groups representing the interests of homeless children and youth. The Secretary shall also consult with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, as appropriate, in carrying out this paragraph.

"(B) The study conducted under subparagraph (A) shall consider—

"(i) the appropriate definition of the terms 'homeless child' and 'homeless youth';

"(ii) the experience of the 1990 Census in identifying, locating, and counting homeless children and youth;

"(iii) appropriate methodologies for identifying, locating, and counting such children and youth, including using schools, shelters, and other social service agencies to collect data; and

"(iv) the projected accuracy of the methodologies identified in clause (iii), and the costs associated with the use of each methodology;

to determine the number of homeless children and youth in the United States to create as accurate an account as possible of the number, location, and living circumstances of such children and youth, including the number of such children and youth that are attending school regularly, part-time, or not at all, and reasons for the nonattendance of such children and youth.

Reports.

"(C)(i) Not later than 240 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall prepare and submit, to the appropriate committees of Congress, a report containing the results of the study conducted under subparagraph (A) and the estimated costs of making the estimates required under clause (ii).

Government contracts.

"(ii) Not later than December 1, 1992, the Secretary, in consultation with the appropriate committees of Congress, and through the use of appropriate statistical methodology, shall, through a grant, contract or cooperative agreement, determine accurate estimates of the number of homeless children and youth throughout the Nation and the number of such children and youth attending school.

"(D) The Secretary may reserve not more than $250,000 from amounts appropriated under section 722(g) in 1991 to carry out the study required under subparagraph (A).

"(E) There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary in 1992 to prepare the report and estimates required under subparagraph (C).

Appropriation authorizations.

"(3) The Secretary shall provide such support and technical assistance to the State educational agencies as is required by such agencies to carry out their responsibilities under this subtitle,"; and

Technical assistance.

(4) by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraphs:

"(5) The Secretary shall conduct evaluation and dissemination activities of programs designed to meet the educational needs of homeless elementary and secondary school students.

"(6) The Secretary shall require applications for grants under this subtitle to be submitted to the Secretary not later than the expiration of the 60-day period beginning on the date that funds are available for purposes of making such grants and shall make such grants not later than the expiration of the 120-day period beginning on such date.

"(7) The Secretary, based on the information received from the States and information gathered by the Secretary under paragraph (1), shall determine the extent to which State educational agencies are ensuring that each homeless child and homeless youth has access to a free appropriate public education as described in section 721(1).".

SEC. 613. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

Subtitle B of title VII of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 725 as section 726; and 42 USC 11435

(2) by inserting after section 724 the following new section: 42 USC 11433

"SEC. 725. REPORTS.

"Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Comptroller General of the United States, in consultation with the Secretary, shall prepare and submit to the appropriate Committees of Congress a report containing the findings of a study conducted to determine the most effective method of distributing funds provided under this subtitle to State educational agencies and local educational agencies.".

Subtitle B—Job Training for the Homeless

SEC. 621. REAUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN PROGRAMS WITHIN THE STEWART B. MCKINNEY HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT.

(a) JOB TRAINING FOR THE HOMELESS.—

(1) APPLICATIONS.—Section 733 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11443) is amended—

(A) by inserting "(a) IN GENERAL.—" before "Each applicant";

(B) in subsection (a)(2), by inserting before the semicolon the following: "or other related programs providing services necessary to address the multiple needs of homeless individuals";

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561, sec. 1231(a)(3), 92 Stat. 2342, 2343; see also general reference Oct. 17, 1979, P.L. 96-88, sec. 301, 93 Stat. 677.

SINGLE STATE APPLICATION

SEC. 435. (a) In the case of any State which applies, contracts, or submits a plan, for participation in any applicable program in which Federal funds are made available for assistance to local educational agencies through, or under the supervision of, the State educational agency of that State, such State shall submit (subject, in the case of programs under titles I and IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, to the provisions of title V of such Act) to the Commissioner a general application containing the assurances set forth in subsection (b). Such application may be submitted jointly for all programs covered by the application, or it may be submitted separately for each such program or for groups of programs. Each application submitted under this section must be approved by each official, agency, board, or other entity within the State which, under State law, is primarily responsible for supervision of the activities conducted under each program covered by the application.

(b) An application submitted under subsection (a) shall set forth assurances, satisfactory to the Commissioner—

(1) that each program will be administered in accordance with all applicable statutes, regulations, program plans, and applications;

(2) that the control of funds provided under each program and title to property acquired with program funds will be in a public agency, or in a nonprofit private agency, institution, or organization if the statute authorizing the program provides for grants to such entities, and that the public agency or nonprofit private agency, institution, or organization will administer such funds and property;

(3) that the State will adopt and use proper methods of administering each applicable program, including—

(A) monitoring of agencies, institutions, and organizations responsible for carrying out each program, and the enforcement of any obligations imposed on those agencies, institutions, and organizations under law,

(B) providing technical assistance, where necessary, to such agencies, institutions, and organizations,

(C) encouraging the adoption of promising or innovative educational techniques by such agencies, institutions, and organizations,

(D) the dissemination throughout the State of information on program requirements and successful practices, and

(E) the correction of deficiencies in program operations that are identified through monitoring or evaluation;

(4) that the State will evaluate the effectiveness of covered programs in meeting their statutory objectives, at such intervals (not less often than once every three years) and in accordance with such procedures as the Commissioner may prescribe by regulation, and that the State will cooperate in carrying out any evaluation of each program conducted by or for the Secretary or other Federal official;

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(5) that the State will use fiscal control and fund accounting procedures that will ensure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, Federal funds paid to the State under each program;

(6) that the State will make reports to the Commissioner (including reports on the results of evaluations required under paragraph (4)) as may reasonably be necessary to enable the Commissioner to perform his duties under each program, and that the State will maintain such records, in accordance with the requirements of section 437 of this Act, and afford access to the records as the Commissioner may find necessary to carry out his duties;

(7) that the State will provide reasonable opportunities for the participation by local agencies, representatives of the class of individuals affected by each program and other interested institutions, organizations, and individuals in the planning for and operation of each program, including the following:

(A) the State will consult with relevant advisory committees, local agencies, interest groups, and experienced professionals in the development of program plans required by statute;

(B) the State will publish each proposed plan, in a manner that will ensure circulation throughout the State, at least sixty days prior to the date on which the plan is submitted to the Commissioner or on which the plan becomes effective, whichever occurs earlier, with an opportunity for public comments on such plan to be accepted for at least thirty days;

(C) the State will hold public hearings on the proposed plans if required by the Commissioner by regulation; and

(D) the State will provide an opportunity for interested agencies, organizations, and individuals to suggest improvements in the administration of the program and to allege that there has been a failure by any entity to comply with applicable statutes and regulations; and

(8) that none of the funds expended under any applicable program will be used to acquire equipment (including computer software) in any instance in which such acquisition results in a direct financial benefit to any organization representing the interests of the purchasing entity or its employees or any affiliate of such an organization.

(c) Each general application submitted under this section shall remain in effect for the duration of any program it covers. The Commissioner shall not require the resubmission or amendment of that application unless required by changes in Federal or State law or by other significant changes in the circumstances affecting an assurance in that application.

(20 U.S.C. 1232d) Enacted Nov. 1, 1978, P.L. 95-561, sec. 1231(a)(3), 92 Stat. 2343-2345 (former sec. 435 redesignated as sec. 415). See also general reference Oct. 17, 1979, P.L. 96-88, sec. 301, 93 Stat. 677; amended Oct. 19, 1984, P.L. 98-511, sec. 706(a), 98 Stat. 2406.

APPENDIX B

REVISED STATE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS

N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-12

C H A P T E R 2 9 0, L A W S O F 1 9 8 9

(Senate Bill No. 2252, 1989, approved January 12, 1990)

AN Act concerning the district of residence for certain students, amending P.L. 1979, c.207 and N.J.S. 18A:38-1 and supplementing chapter 38 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

1. Section 19 of P.L. 1979, c.207 (C.18A:7B-12) is amended to read as follows:

19. For school funding purposes, the Commissioner of Education shall determine district of residence as follows:

a. The district of residence for children in foster homes shall be the district in which the foster parents reside. If a child in a foster home is subsequently placed in a State facility or by a State agency, the district of residence of the child shall then be determined as if no such foster placement had occurred.

b. The district of residence for children who are in residential State facilities, or who have been placed by State agencies in group homes, private schools or out-of-state facilities, shall be the present district of residence of the parent or guardian with whom the child lived prior to his most recent admission to a State facility or most recent placement by a State agency.

If this cannot be determined, the district of residence shall be the district in which the child resided prior to such admission or placement.

c. The district of residence for children whose parent or guardian temporarily move from one school district to another as the result of being homeless shall be the district in which the parent or guardian last resided prior to becoming homeless. For the purpose of this amendatory and supplementary act, "homeless" shall mean an individual who temporarily lacks a fixed, regular and adequate residence.

[c.] d. If the district of residence cannot be determined according to the criteria contained herein, or if the criteria contained herein identify a district of residence outside of the State, the State shall assume fiscal responsibility for the tuition of the child. The tuition shall equal the State average net current expense budget per pupil plus the appropriate categorical program support, if any. This amount shall be appropriated in the same manner as other State aid under this act. The Department of Education shall pay the amount to the Department of Human Services or the Department of Corrections or, in the case of a homeless child, to the school district in which the child is enrolled.

2. N.J.S.18A:38-1 is amended to read as follows:

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18A:38-1. Public schools shall be free to the following persons over five and under 20 years of age:

(a) Any person who is domiciled within the school district;

(b) Any person who is kept in the home of another person domiciled within the school district and is supported by such other person gratis as if he were such other person's own child, upon filing by such other person with the secretary of the board of education of the district, if so required by the board, a sworn statement that he is domiciled within the district and is supporting the child gratis and will assume all personal obligations for the child relative to school requirements and that he intends so to keep and support the child gratuitously for a longer time than merely through the school term, and a copy of his lease if a tenant, or a sworn statement by his landlord acknowledging his tenancy if residing as a tenant without a written lease, and upon filing by the child's parent or guardian with the secretary of the board of education a sworn statement that he is not supporting the child, accompanied by documentation to support the validity of the sworn statements, information from or about which shall be supplied only to the board and only to the extent that it directly pertains to the support or nonsupport of the child; provided, however, that the board of education may contest the validity of the sworn statement in proceedings before the commissioner, except that no child shall be denied admission during the pendency of any such proceedings before the commissioner, and the resident shall have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence before the commissioner that the child is eligible for a free education under the criteria listed in this subsection. If in the judgement of the commissioner this evidence does not support the claim of the resident, he may assess the resident tuition for the student prorated to the time of the board's request for a sworn statement from the resident. Tuition shall be computed on the basis of 1/180 of the total annual per pupil cost to the local district multiplied by the number of days of ineligible attendance;

(c) Any person who fraudulently allows a child of another person to use his residence and is not the primary financial supporter of that child and any person who fraudulently claims to have given up custody of his child to a person in another district commits a disorderly persons offense;

(d) Any person whose parent or guardian, even though not domiciled within the district, is residing temporarily therein, but any person who has had or shall have his all-year-round dwelling place within the district for one year or longer shall be deemed to be domiciled within the district for the purposes of this section;

(e) Any person for who the Division of Youth and Family Services in the Department of Human Services is acting as guardian and who is placed in the district by said bureau;

(f) Any person whose parent or guardian moves from one school district to another school district as a result of being homeless and whose district of residence is determined pursuant to section 19 of P.L. 1979, c.207 (C.18A:7B-12).

2. (New section) The district of residence for a homeless child determined pursuant to section 19 of P.L. 1979, c.207 (C.18A:7B-12) shall be responsible for the education of the homeless child. The district of residence shall determine the educational placement of the child after consulting with the parent or guardian. This determination shall be a. to continue the child's education in the school district of last attendance, b. to enroll the child in the district of residence if the district of residence is not the district of last attendance, or c. to enroll the child in the school district where the child is temporarily living, whichever is in the child's best interest. If the parent or guardian objects to the determination made by the district of residence, the county superintendent of schools shall be notified and within 48 hours shall determine the placement of the child based on criteria established by the State Board of Education. Any appeals regarding the determination shall be resolved according to rules established by the State Board of Education.

When the homeless child attends school in a district other than the district of residence, the district of residence shall pay the costs of tuition for the child to attend school in that district and shall pay for any transportation costs incurred by that district. When the homeless child attends school in the district of residence while temporarily residing in another district, the district of residence shall provide for transportation to and from school pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.18A:58-7.

4. Subject to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L. 1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the State Board of Education shall adopt rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.

5. This act shall take effect July 1 next following enactment.

STATEMENT

Modifies the school district of residence for homeless children so they can legally continue their education either in the district of residence, the district of last attendance or the district in which the parent is temporarily living, whichever is in the child's best interest.

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APPENDIX C

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS ON PROVISIONS FOR THE EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH N.J.A.C. 6:3-7

Adoption Level
November 7, 1990

NEW JERSEY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

TITLE 6

ADOPTED 11/7/90

EDUCATION

SUBTITLE A. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

CHAPTER 3. SCHOOL DISTRICTS

SUBCHAPTER 7. PROVISIONS FOR THE EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

AUTHORITY: N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-12

6:3-7.1 Purpose
6:3-7.2 Definitions
6:3-7.3 Determination of Homelessness
6:3-7.4 Responsibilities of the District of Residence
6:3-7.5 Responsibilities of the District Liaison
6:3-7.6 Educational Placement
6:3-7.7 Disputes and Appeals
6:3-7.8 Tuition
6:3-7.9 Transportation
6:3-7.10 Evaluation Procedures for Compliance

6:3-7.1 Purpose

The purpose of this subchapter is to establish uniform Statewide policies and procedures for ensuring that homeless children and youth have access to a free and appropriate public education. Specific rules have been established to determine the educational placement of these students and to respond to appeals

made by parents or other parties. These rules will implement N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-12.

6:3-7.2 Definitions

The following words and terms when used in this chapter will have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

"District liaison for the education of homeless children" means the person identified in each school district who facilitates all of the activities needed to ensure the timely educational placement of homeless children and youth.

"District of residence" for a homeless child whose parent(s) or guardian(s) temporarily move from one school district to another as the result of being homeless pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1, N.J.A.C. 6:20-5.3(g) and N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-12 means the district in which the parent(s) or guardian(s) last resided prior to becoming homeless.

"Homeless" child or youth means one who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate residence.

"Parent" means the natural parent(s) or legal guardian(s), foster parent(s), surrogate parent(s), person acting in the place of a parent such as the person with whom the pupil legally resides and/or a person legally responsible for the pupil's welfare. Unless parental rights have been terminated by a court of appropriate jurisdiction, the parent(s) retains all rights under this chapter.

6:3-7.3 Determination of homelessness

(a) A child or youth shall be considered homeless for purposes of this program if he or she resides in any of the following:

1. A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations, including:

i. Welfare hotels;

ii. Congregate shelters;

iii. Transitional housing for families; and

iv. Transitional housing for the mentally ill.

2. An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or

3. A public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

(b) Additionally, a child or youth shall be considered homeless if he or she is:

1. Living with a parent in a domestic violence shelter;

2. A runaway living in a shelter;

3. A school-aged mother residing in a home for adolescent mothers;

4. Sick or abandoned and residing in a hospital and would otherwise be released if he or she had a permanent residence;

5. The child of a homeless family who is out of necessity living with relatives or friends; or

6. The child of a migrant family who lack adequate housing.

6:3-7.4 Responsibilities of the district of residence

(a) The district of residence for a homeless child shall be responsible for the education of the child, shall determine the educational placement after consulting with the parent(s) or guardian(s), shall pay the costs of tuition and transportation when the child attends school in another district, and shall provide transportation when a child attends school in the district of residence while residing in another district.

(b) The determination of a homeless child's district of residence shall be made by the school districts involved as described in N.J.A.C. 6:3-7.5 based upon information received from the Department of Human Services, shelter providers, school districts, involved agencies, case managers or parents.

(c) The school district which has been determined to be the district of residence for a homeless child shall be the district of residence for as long as the parent(s) or guardian(s) remains homeless.

(d) When a dispute occurs regarding the determination of the district of residence, the involved districts shall immediately notify the county superintendent of schools, who will resolve the dispute. When the dispute involves districts in different counties, the county superintendents will work collectively to resolve the dispute. If the county superintendent(s) is unable to resolve the dispute, an appeal may be made to the Assistant Commissioner, Division of Finance, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-5.3(d), (e) and (f).

(e) When the district of residence cannot be determined for a homeless child or if the district of residence is outside of the

State, the State shall assume fiscal responsibility for the tuition of the child pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-12(d). The Department of Education shall pay the amount to the school district in which the child is currently enrolled for as long as the parent(s) or guardian(s) remains homeless.

6:3-7.5 Responsibilities of the district liaison

(a) The superintendent of each school district shall identify a district liaison for the education of homeless children.

1. The liaison shall facilitate communication and cooperation between the district of residence and the district where the homeless child is temporarily residing.

2. The liaison shall develop a system to ensure that any homeless child residing in the district is enrolled and attending school according to the placement options described in N.J.A.C. 6:3-7.6(a).

(b) When a child becomes homeless and is living temporarily in a school district, the liaison of that district, upon receiving notification from the Department of Human Services, shelter directors, involved agencies, case managers, or parent(s) or guardian(s), shall notify the liaison of the district of residence within 24 hours. This procedure shall also apply to those children identified as homeless pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:3-7.3 and who may not be receiving services through a social service agency.

(c) When the liaison in the district of residence of a homeless child receives notification of the need for educational

placement, that person shall coordinate placement procedures immediately based on the best interest of the child and criteria set forth in N.J.A.C. 6:3-7.6(c).

6:3-7.6 Educational placement

(a) The district of residence shall decide the educational placement of the homeless child according to criteria described in this section. The options for placement are:

1. To continue the child's education in the school district of last attendance;

2. To enroll the child in the district of residence if the district of residence is not the district of last attendance; or

3. To enroll the child in the school district where the child is temporarily living.

(b) When the district of residence for a homeless child cannot be determined, the district in which the child is temporarily residing or the district of last attendance shall enroll the child immediately.

(c) The decision regarding educational placement of a homeless child shall be based on what is in the best interest of the child. The district of residence shall consider the following in the placement decision process:

1. The preference of the parent(s) or guardian(s) as to where the child should attend school;

2. The continuity of the child's educational program with consideration given to the child continuing in the same school, the length of time the child attended a particular school, the time

remaining in the school year, graduation requirements and district policies regarding the number of credits needed for graduation, and geographical location where the family plans to seek permanent housing;

3. The eligibility of the child for special instructional programs, such as bilingual, compensatory, gifted and talented, special education and vocational programs; and

4. The distance, travel time, and safety factors in coordinating transportation services from the temporary residence to the school.

(d) When a decision is made to enroll an educationally handicapped homeless child in a district other than the district of residence and an immediate review of the placement options available to implement the pupil's current individualized educational program cannot be conducted, the child shall be placed in a program consistent with the goals and objectives of the current individualized educational program for a period not to exceed 30 calendar days. Within this 30 day period the district of residence must assure that the individualized educational program is reviewed and revised pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:28.

(e) The district of residence shall determine the educational placement in a timely manner and only after consultation with the parent(s) or guardian(s) as described below:

1. Placement decisions shall be made by the superintendent of the district of residence or his or her designee within three school days of notification of the need for educational

placement. Once the decision is made, the child shall be placed immediately.

2. Consultation with the parent(s) or guardian(s) regarding the placement decision and their right to appeal that decision shall be documented by the superintendent or his or her designee in writing.

3. When there is a dispute regarding the placement decision, the child will be enrolled when the county superintendent determines the educational placement pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:3-7.7.

(f) When a decision is made to enroll the child in a district other than the district of residence, the district where the child last attended school shall forward to the new district all relevant school and health records. When the parent(s) or guardian(s) is homeless due to conditions of domestic violence, the transfer of pupil records shall be subject to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6:3-2.6.

6:3-7.7 Disputes and appeals

(a) If the parent(s) or guardian(s), involved school district officials, involved agencies, case managers, or shelter providers object to the educational placement decision made by the district of residence, the superintendent or designee of the district of residence shall immediately notify the county superintendent of schools. The county superintendent shall determine the placement of the child within 48 hours based on the child's best interest and the criteria set forth in N.J.A.C. 6:3-7.6(c).

(b) If the parent(s) or guardian(s) or any of the above parties object to the decision of the county superintendent,

mediation shall be available through the Division of Compensatory/ Bilingual Education's Office of Education for Homeless Children and Youth. Mediation shall be provided as follows:

1. A request for mediation shall be made to the Office of Education for Homeless Children and Youth either verbally or in written form. The mediation request shall cite the issue(s) in dispute and the relief sought;

2. A mediation conference with all parties present, including representation from the county superintendent's office, shall be conducted within five school days after the request is made at which time:

i. Issues shall be determined; and

ii. Options explored.

3. The role of the mediator is not judgmental;

4. The mediation conference shall be:

i. Informal; and

ii. Held at a time and place reasonably convenient to the parties in the dispute.

5. If the mediation results in agreement, conclusions shall be incorporated into a written agreement, signed by each party, and forwarded to the county superintendent for appropriate action. If the mediation does not result in agreement, the Office of Education for Homeless Children and Youth shall assist the parent(s) or guardian(s) in filing an appeal to the Commissioner of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-9 and N.J.A.C. 6:24.

(c) Any dispute or appeal from any party at any stage of the process shall not delay the homeless child's immediate entrance into

school. The homeless child shall be placed in the district designated by the county superintendent pending resolution of the dispute or appeal.

(d) Any disputes and appeals involving an educationally handicapped homeless child shall be pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:28.

6:3-7.8 Tuition

(a) When the homeless child is enrolled in a district other than the district of residence, the district of residence shall pay the costs of tuition for the child to that district pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-19 and N.J.A.C. 6:20-3.1.

(b) The district of residence shall also include the child on its annual Application for State School Aid (ASSA) for as long as the parent(s) or guardian(s) remains homeless and the child is enrolled in another school district.

(c) When the State assumes fiscal responsibility for the tuition of a homeless child, the State shall pay the district in which the child is enrolled the State foundation amount plus the appropriate special education aid, if any.

6:3-7.9 Transportation

(a) When the homeless child is enrolled in a district other than the district of residence, the district in which the child is enrolled shall provide transportation services and the district of residence shall pay for any transportation costs incurred by that district pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6:21.

(b) When the homeless child attends school in the district of residence while temporarily residing in another district, the district of residence shall provide for transportation to and from school pursuant to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6:21.

(c) When a district of residence cannot be determined and the State has assumed fiscal responsibility for the payment of tuition, the district where the homeless child is enrolled shall provide transportation pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:21.

(d) In implementing the transportation services required for a homeless child, school districts shall explore alternatives and provide the most economical and safest mode of transportation pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:21.

6:3-7.10 Evaluation procedures for compliance

(a) The Department of Education shall monitor school districts responsible for implementing the requirements set forth in this subchapter, including:

1. Placement decisions made according to rules and within specified timelines; and

2. Provision of appropriate educational services and transportation.

3472h

APPENDIX D

COUNTY LIAISONS

COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
HOMELESS EDUCATION CONTACT PERSONS

Atlantic County Office:

Contact: Robert Kiliany
Educational Specialist/Special Needs
(609) 625-0004 FAX #625-6539

Bergen County Office:

Contact: Mary Lou Varley
County Supervisor of Child Study
(201) 599-6256 FAX #599-6255

Burlington County Office:

Contact: Michael F. Baltish
Educational Specialist/General Education
(609) 265-5060 FAX 265-5932

Camden County Office:

Contact: Leonard Berman
Educational Specialist/General Education
(609) 756-5700 FAX 486-0177

Cape May County Office:

Contact: John Misieczko
Educational Specialist/Special Needs/Vocational Education
(609) 465-1282 FAX #465-2094

Cumberland County Office:

Contact: John Misieczko
Educational Specialist/Special Needs
(609) 453-0422 FAX 455-9523

Essex County Office:

Contact: Theodora Sanchez
Educational Specialist/Urban Needs
(201) 857-5700 FAX #239-3492

Gloucester County Office:

Contact: Robert Kiliany
Educational Specialist/Special Needs
(609) 468-6500 FAX #468-9115

Hudson County Office:

Contact: Judith Albornoz
Educational Specialist/Urban Needs
(201) 915-1250 FAX #333-0368

Hunterdon County Office:

Contact: Bruce Quinn
Acting County Superintendent
(201) 788-1414 FAX #788-1457

Mercer County Office:

Contact: Charles Murray
Educational Specialist/Special Needs
(609) 588-5871 FAX #588-5849

Middlesex County Office:

Contact: Archie Chiles
Educational Specialist/Urban Needs
(908) 390-6000 FAX #390-1688

Monmouth County Office:

Contact: Evelyn Bieber-Freuler
Educational Specialist/Supervisor
(908) 431-7811 FAX #577-0679

Morris County Office:

Contact: Doris Smith
Educational Planner
(201) 285-8320 FAX #285-8341

Ocean County Office:

Contact: Robert M. Gray
Educational Specialist/Special Needs
(908) 929-2078 FAX #244-8242

Passaic County Office:

Contact: Carmen Garfole
Educational Specialist/Special Needs
(201) 881-7123 FAX #742-1415

Salem County Office:

Contact: Ellen Herdegen
Educational Specialist/Special Needs/Vocational Education
(609) 769-2700 FAX #769-0782

Somerset County Office:

Contact: John Nemeth
Acting County Superintendent
(908) 231-7171 FAX #722-6902

Sussex County Office:

Contact: Bernard Andrews
County Superintendent
(201) 579-6996 FAX #579-6476

Union County Office:

Contact: Michael Maddaluna
Acting County Superintendent
(908) 654-9860 FAX #654-9869

Warren County Office:

Contact: Jane D. Keehn
Acting County Superintendent
(201) 475-6327 FAX #475-3541

GD/pc:14/8469H

Revised 9/91

APPENDIX E

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES/DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AGREEMENT
August, 1990

AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

AND

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DIVISION OF COMPENSATORY/BILINGUAL EDUCATION

I. Authority

This agreement is made between the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Economic Assistance and the New Jersey Department of Education, Division of Compensatory/Bilingual Education through their duly authorized representatives pursuant to N.J.S.A. 44:8-107 et seq., N.J.S.A. 44:10-3(g), N.J.A.C. 10:81-4.22, 10:82-5.10 and N.J.S.A. 18A:4-1 et seq..

II. Purpose

The purpose of this agreement is to ensure the confidentiality of information, pursuant to 42 U.S.C.A. 602(a)9 and N.J.S.A. 44:10-3(d), that is shared between the Department of Human Services, Division of Economic Assistance and the Department of Education to allow for the timely enrollment, attendance and administrative tracking of homeless children and youth and to facilitate the administration of emergency assistance and social services, including nutritional services, to homeless children and youth.

III. General Terms and Conditions

A. The Department of Human Services, Division of Economic Assistance agrees:

1. To provide to the Department of Education's administrative personnel at the county level and to provide to the local education agency, in their official capacity, only that information necessary to ensure that homeless children and youth enroll and attend school and that related social services, including nutritional services, are made available to homeless children and youth. This information shall include the following: children's names, social security numbers, ages, parents or guardians, temporary addresses, previous school districts, caseworkers' names, case numbers and caseworkers' phone numbers.

B. The Department of Education agrees:

1. To safeguard all confidential information, as defined in federal regulation 45 CFR 205.50, such that the release of this information will be restricted to those persons operating in their official capacity in the Department of Education at the county level and at the local education agency, for the limited purpose of directly administering services to homeless

children and youth under Title IV-A or other Federal or federally assisted programs which provide assistance or services directly to individuals on the basis of need.

2. That this information shall not be released to any other state, federal or local agency for any other purposes, including commercial or political purposes.

3. That by virtue of having access to this information, the Department of Education and the local education agency shall be subject to the standards and sanctions of client confidentiality detailed in Title IV-A of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C.A. 602(a)9, N.J.S.A. 44:10-3(d) and N.J.A.C. 10:81-7.30, 31.

IV. **Commencement/Termination of Agreement**

A. This agreement shall become effective on the day it is signed by parties to the agreement or their duly designated representatives, and shall remain in effect until terminated by either party to the agreement upon 30 days written notice.

1. It is agreed that if any provision of this agreement shall conflict with any state or federal law(s), or shall have the effect of causing either party to the agreement to be ineligible for federal financial participation, this agreement shall be null and void.

2. It is also agreed that any unauthorized use or disclosure of information obtained by virtue of this agreement shall constitute grounds for either party to terminate this agreement immediately, with written notification of such to the other party.

V. **Agreement Signatures and Dates**

The terms of this agreement and all its references have been read and understood by the persons whose signatures appear below. The parties agree to comply with the terms and conditions of this agreement as set forth in Section I through IV.

BY: _____ _____

NAME NAME

4/26/90 5/29/90

DATE DATE

Title: Assistant Commissioner Title: Director

Division: Educational Programs Division: Economic Assistance

AGREEMENT EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 1990

JD/sl:1/3352h

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE EMERGENCY REFERRAL FORM

DATE: _____

A. TO: Department of Education
Superintendent, _____ School District
(Name of School District)

_____
(Address of School District)

The following information is being forwarded to your office to ensure that appropriate social, educational and nutritional services are made available to the displaced children listed below:

NOTE: USE ONE FORM PER CASE

B. Parent (Guardian) Name _____

Current (Temporary) Address _____

_____

C. Last (Permanent) Address _____

_____

D. CWA Case Number _____

E. Previous School District _____

F. Children In Household:

Full Name of Child	SS Number	Date of Birth	Attending Previous School District Yes	No
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

G. Referred by: _____
(Name and Title of CWA Representative)

Agency: _____ Telephone: _____

Authority: The above information is provided under the provisions of the agreement between the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Economic Assistance and the Department of Education, effective August 1, 1990 and shall be safeguarded per Federal Regulation 45 CFR 205.50.

(SEE REVERSE FOR COMPLETION INSTRUCTIONS)

DIRECTIONS FOR COMPLETION

This is a carbonized triplicate form. Please type or use a ball point pen when completing. Pencil and/or felt tip pens should not be used. This form is to be filled out by appropriate staff of the County's Emergency Assistance (EA) Unit when placing a family in a temporary shelter (hotel, motel, shelter etc.) and is to be completed on the date of emergency placement but no later than the morning of the next business day. Please note that children must attend school within three days of placement.

A. The form should be addressed to the local School District Liaison within whose jurisdiction the family's current emergency shelter lies. A current listing of the County Superintendents Office Liaisons, and the School Districts within your County, indicating the names of the School District and Liaisons to the Emergency Assistance Programs will be provided.

B. List the name of the homeless parents/guardians for whom Emergency Assistance was provided and the address of the shelter and/or temporary housing in which the family currently resides.

C. List the last permanent address of the family. It is important that this information be as accurate as possible, because the school district which has jurisdiction over this address will be the district billed for school services provided to the family during the duration of their temporary housing. At a minimum, the family should have established a permanent mailing address at the location listed.

D. List the CWA case number.

E. Indicate the name of the school district in which the children last attended school prior to the date of Emergency Assistance application. This may or may not be the same district as that listed in C, dependent on whether the family utilized other temporary housing prior to applying for Emergency Assistance.

F. Please list all children in the household regardless of whether they are of school-age. The Social Security number should be listed for each child, as well as date of birth and an indication of whether they are still attending the School District listed in E.

G. Indicate the name and title of the CWA representative, the Agency's name and the telephone number of the representative.

The original of the form is to be sent to the attention of the Liaison within the Superintendent's Office of the Local District within whose jurisdiction the family's current emergency shelter lies.

The second copy is to be sent to the attention of the Liaison within the County Superintendent of Schools Office.

The third copy is to be retained in the case file.

APPENDIX F

PARENTS PAMPHLET

EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN NEW JERSEY

If you need help in getting your child in school contact:

Your social worker

Your local school

Your county office of education

For Further Information Please Contact:

Office of Education for Homeless Children & Youth

Division of General Academic Education

New Jersey State Department of Education

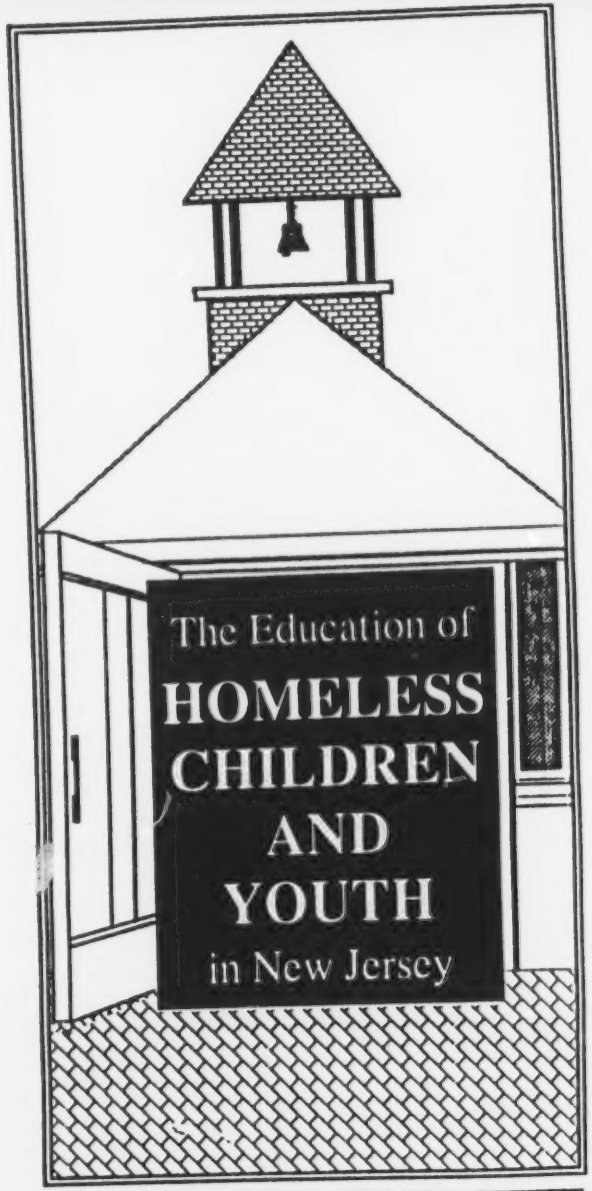
CN 500

Trenton, N.J. 08625-0500

(609) 984-2101

NEW JERSEY STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DIVISION OF GENERAL ACADEMIC EDUCATION
OFFICE OF EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN & YOUTH
CN 500
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0500

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



The Education of HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH in New Jersey

NEW JERSEY STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PTM 1000.60

Every child in New Jersey has a right to a free and appropriate education. During this time of crisis your child's education is of critical concern.

It is important that your child continues to go to school. We understand that not having a home puts a great stress on all members of your family. Keeping your child in school while you are looking for a permanent home can help you and your child during this time.

This pamphlet will help you keep your child in school. Please remember to:

- Enroll your child as soon as possible after you arrive in a shelter, motel, or any other temporary housing situation.
- Go to the nearest school to register your child.
- When you enroll your child bring his/her transfer card or birth certificate and health records, if available.

The following is a summary of the educational rights of homeless children and youth based upon legislation which became effective July 1, 1990.

CHOICES

A homeless child can attend school in one of three districts:

1) The district of residence, which is the school your child was attending when you became homeless;

or

2) the school district your child last attended;

or

3) the school district where you are living temporarily.

BEST INTEREST

Selecting your child's school will be based upon what is in the child's best interest. The decision is made by the school district where your child was attending school before you became homeless, in consultation with you as the parent or guardian. The district must make a decision within three days of being notified of a child's need for school placement.

APPEALS

If you object to where your child will attend school, you have the right to an appeal. Contact the county superintendent of schools in the county where you lived before you became homeless. You should make this call immediately to ensure that your child is enrolled as quickly as possible.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation to and from school will be provided by the district where your child will be going to school.

SCHOOL RECORDS

School district staff will help you with transferring school and health records. This should not delay the entrance of your child into school.

ASSISTANCE

Each school district has appointed a person who is responsible for helping you to register your child as quickly as possible. Speak to this person in the school district.

APPENDIX G

NEW JERSEY STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL

ON THE

EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

NEW JERSEY STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Mission

The primary mission of the New Jersey State Advisory Council on the Education of Homeless Children and Youth is to advise the Department of Education on policies and practices which ensure that all homeless school-age children have the same access to elementary and secondary education as all students in New Jersey.

Goals

1. To advise the Commissioner of Education of unmet needs within the state regarding the education of homeless children and youth.

2. To provide recommendations to the Department of Education on the development and implementation of educational and support services to meet the needs of homeless students.

3. To oversee implementation of education and support service programs for homeless students by the Department of Education and local school districts.

4. To review Department of Education policies and regulations concerning homeless students, formulate recommendations and provide public comment.

5. To assist the Department of Education in establishing linkages between social service agencies, school districts, advocacy groups, homeless parents and other state agencies.

6. To assist the Department of Educations's Office of Education for Homeless Children and Youth in meeting its federal mandate of gathering statistics on the number, location and educational needs of homeless school-age children in New Jersey.

NEW JERSEY STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON THE
EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

1. Sr. Margaret Barry, CSJP
Saint Joseph's Home
81 York Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302
(201) 413-9280

2. Carol Dann
Homeless Decentralization Committee
7th & Cooper Sts. - Camden Co. College
Camden, NJ 08102
(609) 338-1817

3. Joan Driscoll, Executive Director
Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless
120 Division Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07201
(201) 352-2966

4. Michael Fabricant, President
Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless
118 Lincoln Avenue
Elizabeth, NJ 07208
(201) 351-3582

5. Michael Gerhardt, Deputy Exec. Dir.
Bergen County Community Action Program
214 State Street
Hackensack, NJ 07601
(201) 488-5100

6. Beverly Gilbert, Director
Atlantic County Women's Center
P.O. Box 311
Northfield, NJ 08225
(609) 646-4376

7. Patricia Hoey, Director
Special Services
Winslow Township Schools
Box 213, R.D. 5
Blue Anchor, NJ 08037
(609) 561-9508

8. Glenda Johnson-Green, Principal
Roseville Ave. Elem. School
70 Roseville Avenue
Newark, NJ 07107
(201) 268-5310

9. Susan Jones, Program Director
Ocean's Harbor House
P.O. Box 622
Toms River, NJ 08754-0622
(201) 929-0660

10. Stephen Kayne
School No. 2
Passaic Street
Paterson, NJ 07501
(201) 881-6001

11. Barbara Lamberson
267 Washington Road
Sayreville, NJ 08872
(201)238-8436

12. Judith M. Luger, Principal
John Marshall Elementary School
Cornell Street
Edison, NJ 08817
(201) 985-3377

13. Pamela Meyers
1105 Charles Street, Apt 1C
Linden, NJ 07036

14. Robert Nasdor
Middlesex Interfaith Partners/Homeless
2-4 New & Kirkpatrick Streets
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
(201) 214-8888

15. Karen Olson, Executive Director
Interfaith Hospitality Networks/Homeless
31 Woodland Avenue
Summit, NJ 07901
(201) 273-1100

16. Nancy M. Phillips, Program Supervisor
Catholic Charities Emergency Services
213 Lippincott Avenue
Riverton, NJ 08077
(609) 786-1868

17. Gerry Staadecker, Family Consultant
East Orange School District
715 Park Avenue
East Orange, NJ 07017-1004
(201) 266-5264

18. Sharon Williams
16 Elridge Lane
Willingboro, NJ 08046
(609) 877-8668

19. Ceil Zalkind, Assistant Director
Association for Children of New Jersey
35 Halsey Street
Newark, NJ 07102
(201) 643-3876

20. Donna M. Wrenn, Director
Cumberland Family Shelter
6140 Mays Landing Road
P.O. Box 2762
Vineland, NJ 08360
(609) 327-3145

DW/dm:14/9469H

APPENDIX H

SURVEY INSTRUMENT
(SEPTEMBER 1988/AUGUST 1989)

MISH020110690

NEW JERSEY STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

1988-1989 SURVEY

Agency Information:

_____ County

_____ Name of Agency

_____ Person Completing Form/Title

_____ Area Code Telephone Number

_____ Address

_____ City State Zip Code

General Instructions

1. The target population for this survey includes only those homeless children from families who did not receive Emergency Assistance during the period of the count.

2. For the purpose of this survey a "homeless" individual is defined as one who (1) lacks a fixed, regular and adequate residence or (2) has a primary nighttime residence in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter for temporary accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters and transitional housing for the mentally ill), an institution providing temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

3. Information provided should cover a one year period from September 1, 1988 through August 31, 1989.

4. If an actual count of the targeted homeless children and youth is not available a sampling technique may be used to estimate the number of homeless children and youth served during the 12 month reporting period.

5. The total number of targeted homeless children and youth should reflect the number of children and youth who were homeless at any given time during the reporting period. To the extent possible, an individual should not be included in the homeless population count more than once.

6. Please complete and return by December 1, 1989 to:

Office of Education for Homeless Children and Youth
Division of Compensatory/Bilingual Education
New Jersey State Department of Education
CN-500
Trenton, New Jersey 08625
(609) 292-8777

SURVEY OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH
September 1988 through August 1989

1. Report the total number of the targeted homeless children and youth served by your agency from September 1, 1988 through August 31, 1989 according to the following school and age level groups.

School/Age Level	Numbers
a. Preschool, Ages 0-4	_____
b. Elementary (Grades K-6), Ages 5-11	_____
c. Middle/Jr. High (Grades 7-9), Ages 12 to 14	_____
d. High School (Grades 10-12), Ages 15-18	_____
Total	_____

2. Check the source of information for the numbers reported in item 1.

a. Estimate _____

b. Records _____

c. Other: (Please Specify) _____

3. Of the total reported in item 1 indicate the number of homeless children and youth:

a. Who are attending school _____

b. Who are not attending school _____

4. Report numbers of homeless children and youth housed according to the following locations.

Type of Housing	Numbers
a. Publicly Operated Shelters	_____
b. Privately Operated Shelters	_____
c. Motels/Hotels	_____
d. Relatives or Friends	_____
e. Other: (Please Specify)	_____
Total	_____

5. Rate in order of importance (please circle) the following reasons that apply to cases where homeless children and youth have had difficulty in attending school.

	Most Important				Least Important
a. Residency Requirements	1	2	3	4	5
b. Lack of Transportation	1	2	3	4	5
c. Lack of Health Records	1	2	3	4	5
d. Lack of School Records	1	2	3	4	5
e. Guardianship Requirements	1	2	3	4	5
f. Other: (Please Specify)	_____				
	_____				

6. Rate in order of importance (please circle) the following educational needs of the homeless children and youth you are serving.

	Most Important				Least Important
a. Special Education	1	2	3	4	5
b. Bilingual/ESL Education	1	2	3	4	5
c. Compensatory Education	1	2	3	4	5
d. Gifted and Talented Education	1	2	3	4	5
e. Other: (Please Specify)	1	2	3	4	5

7. Describe any difficulties you have encountered in identifying the educational needs of this population.

_____
_____
_____
_____

8. Provide any additional information regarding the education of homeless children and youth.

_____
_____
_____
_____

JD/dm:14/7473H

APPENDIX I

**COMMISSIONER'S MEMO TO
CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS
(AUGUST 9, 1990)**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CN 500
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0500

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

August 9, 1990

TO: Chief School Administrators

FROM: John Ellis, Commissioner

SUBJECT: Education of Homeless Children and Youth

The education of homeless children and youth continues to be a critical issue in our state. A report submitted to Congress in March 1990 by the United States Department of Education ranks New Jersey's homeless school-age population as the fifth highest in the nation. We have recognized the critical needs of these children by becoming one of the few states to pass legislation which addresses the unique circumstances of homeless students, N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 and 18A:7B-12. This law, which became effective July 1, 1990, revises New Jersey's residency requirements to better address the specific needs of this population.

This communication will provide you with information about:

- the major provisions of the law;
- the status of the proposed rules now before the State Board of Education which will provide guidance in implementing the law; and
- an agreement between the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education to share homeless student information which became effective August 1, 1990.

Major Elements of the Law

The amendments to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 and 18A:7B-12 will assist greatly in ensuring that homeless children and youth have educational access, a right often denied to these students. Specifically, the law:

- assigns responsibility for the education of a homeless child with the district of residence, that district where the parent or guardian lived prior to becoming homeless;

- directs the district of residence to determine the educational placement of the homeless child after consultation with the parent or guardian based on the best interest of the child;

- allows three educational placement options for a homeless child which are: a) to continue the child's education in the school district of last attendance, b) to enroll the child in the district of residence if the district of residence is not the district of last attendance, or c) to enroll the child in the school district where the child is temporarily living;

- establishes an appeal process which requires the county superintendent of schools to be notified of disputed placement decisions;

- fixes the responsibility of paying tuition and transportation expenses with the district of residence; and

- directs the Department of Education to assume financial responsibility for tuition if no district of residence can be determined.

I have enclosed a copy of the law for your information.

Rules and Regulations

In addition to the law, I have also enclosed the proposed rules which were developed to provide school districts with clear and concise guidance in implementing the provisions of the law. They clarify the procedures needed to ensure that homeless students have access to a free and appropriate public education. Specific rules define the responsibilities of the district of residence, establish criteria for educational placement decisions, and outline an appeals process when these decisions are disputed by parents or other parties.

In addition, the rules propose that each school district designate a liaison for the education of homeless children. This person will be responsible for facilitating all of the activities needed to ensure the timely educational placement of homeless children and youth and for coordinating activities with other districts. This response network has already been initiated and liaisons have been identified in each school district and county office of education. I have enclosed a copy of the county and school district liaisons for your region in this mailing.

These rules were approved by the State Board of Education at the proposal level on August 1, 1990 and will be published in the New Jersey Register in September 1990 with a tentative public hearing date scheduled for September 18, 1990. We anticipate that the rules will be adopted in November or December 1990. Though not formally adopted, the proposed rules should provide you with some guidance in implementing the requirements of the law. Please note that questions and answers on a variety of topics related to the rules have also been included.

Department of Human Services/Department of Education Agreement

The Departments of Human Services and Education have entered into an agreement, which will result in school officials receiving information from human services personnel when homeless families with children are placed in the area. This agreement, which went into effect August 1, 1990, will ensure that homeless school-age children enroll and attend school in a timely manner. The Educational Service Emergency Referral Form will be sent to the district liaison by the County Board of Social Services for immediate follow-up.

At-Risk Students

Homeless students represent a population of our children who are most at-risk. Their needs are complex and they face many challenges because of their homeless situation. With the development in 1989 of the Education of Homeless Children and Youth in New Jersey: A Plan for State Action, educators realized the importance of developing educational and supportive programs for this population. Today, as we begin implementing these new requirements, we are another step closer to accomplishing the goals of that plan.

Thank you for your efforts in facilitating the implementation of these new policies and procedures which will guarantee the educational rights of homeless children in our state. For assistance or further information, please contact your county office of education or the Office of Education for Homeless Children and Youth at (609) 292-8777.

JE/DFG/lp:1/3586h
Enclosures
c: Alan J. Gibbs, Department of Human Services
County Superintendents
Richard A. DiPatri
Walter McCarroll